



Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 4, Number 12

December, 2005

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



February 11-12 Battleship Texas
“Remember the Maine”
March 10-11 Fort Clark Springs
March 24-25 Fort McKavett
Educational and Living History
May 19-20 Fort Chadbourne

***Your Friends Group
Dues are needed as
soon as possible!***

***The rates are:
\$15.00 single
\$25.00 family
\$100.00 corporate***

**Send to
Friends of Fort McKavett
P.O. Box 87
Fort McKavett, TX 76841**



Fort
McKavett
State
Historic
Site

We need your help!!!

With the growing membership of our Friends group and volunteer program, we are asking anyone that can to download the newsletter from the Friends of Fort McKavett site to help cut the additional expense our growth has created to print and mail the newsletter.

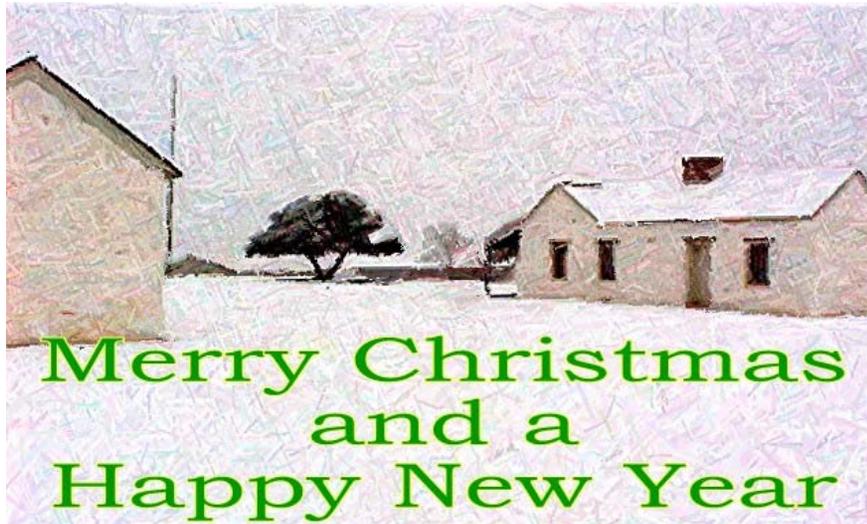
You can download the Gazette by going to:

www.fortmckavett.org

and either view it using a Adobe Acrobat Reader (if you don't have one, there is a link to download one free), or print it out for your files. This way, you can have the newsletter in color.

If you can help us with this, contact Buddy Garza or Robin Street at mckavett@airmail.net so they can remove your name from the newsletter's mailing list.

Your comments and questions are appreciated.



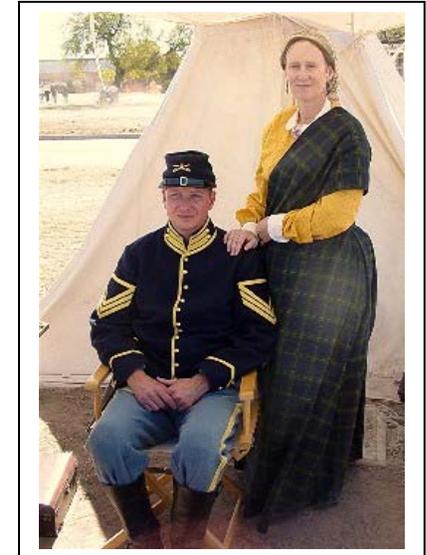
From Buddy Garza, Robin Street, Alfredo Muñoz, and the Volunteers and Friends of Fort McKavett

Special Announcement

Due to state funding shortages causing staff reductions, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is implementing new park operating schedules for many of the parks and historic sites throughout the state. Beginning December 13th, Fort McKavett State Historic Site will be open on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We will continue to offer our special events and activities throughout the year and have every intention of accommodating school and other groups and special tours as needed.

As always, we will continue to ask for your assistance during special events such as West Texas Heritage Day and Educational Day and consider our Park Hosts, Living History Volunteers and Friends of Fort McKavett invaluable to our mission of protecting and preserving the natural and cultural resources Fort McKavett offers.

Fort McKavett Garrison at Fort Concho



Upper left, Alfredo Muñoz and some of the School Kids on Friday at Concho. Bottom left shows Richard and Cindy Vaughn, John and Andrew Schultz getting ready for visitors on Saturday. Right, Dale and Darcy in their "Sunday go to meetings".

Fort Concho this year was a big success for both them and the Fort McKavett Garrison. Also in attendance were Henry Crawford, Buddy Garza, and John Cobb. About 2,000 school kids came in on Friday and several thousand visitors on Saturday and Sunday. We gave out a lot of Fort McKavett literature and information.



Several of the guns at Fort Concho this year will be in attendance at our Fort McKavett event in March. This only adds to our event as it gets bigger and better every year.

Meet the People at Fort McKavett



Joseph Anthony Mower was born on August 22, 1827 at Woodstock, Vermont. The family moved to Lowell, Massachusetts when he was 6. He was educated in public schools of Lowell and at Norwich Academy in his native state. He then worked as carpenter for a brief time until he entered army during the Mexican War as a Private, serving until 1848.

Seven years later Mower, who had always desired military career, was appt a Second Lieutenant of 1st United States Infantry. He served at Fort McKavett in Company "E" of the 1st U.S. over a year from January 1856 to April 1857. He was promoted to 1st Lt. and transferred to Company "A" of the 1st US on leaving McKavett. During the Civil War, he made a magnificent record as a regimental, brigade, divisional, and corps commander successively. He was elected Colonel of the 11th Missouri (Union) Volunteer Infantry in May 1862 (a state in which he had served since the beginning of the war) he was promoted to Brigadier General on Mar 16, 1863, and to Major General on Aug 12, 1864. By end of the war he had been brevetted for gallantry through all grades to that of Major General in the Regular service. In meantime, fought at the battle of Iuka and at Corinth where he was wounded, captured, escaped, and recaptured. Next he directed a brigade of William T. Sherman's XV Corps in the Vicksburg Campaign. He accompanied Nathan P. Banks on the ill-fated campaign up the Red River and led the attacking column into Fort De Russy, and commanded the rear guard at Yellow Bayou during the retreat. Soon after he was given command of a Division, Sherman states that he was "the bravest young soldier we have." Mower served with Sherman in Georgia and the Carolina Campaign after taking part in the latter's "invasion of Missouri" in the early part of 1864. After joining Sherman in November 1864, during "The March to the Sea," he commanded a Division; during the long march north from Savannah, which would terminate on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., he had charge of the XX Corps, directing them with great distinction in Slocum's Army of Georgia.

On the reorganization of the Regular Army in July 1866, Mower was given command of the newly authorized 39th Regiment of Infantry and was transferred in 1869 to the 25th United States Infantry. Mower died of pneumonia, January 6, 1870 while commanding the Department of Louisiana. He was buried with full military honors in Arlington National.

Fort McKavett Post Library

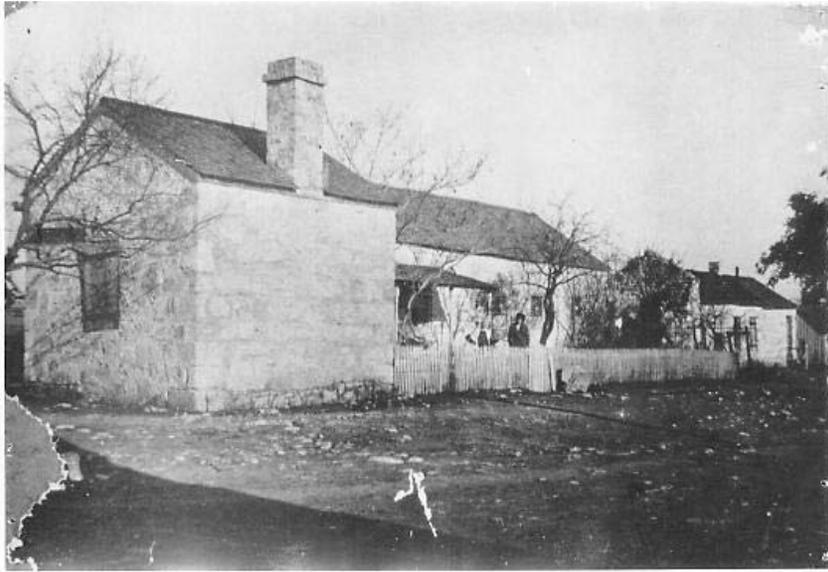


Thanks to our Volunteers and the Army, the Post Library was moved from the back of the Hospital building to the main office area. It is heated, cooled, and has a lot better security than before.

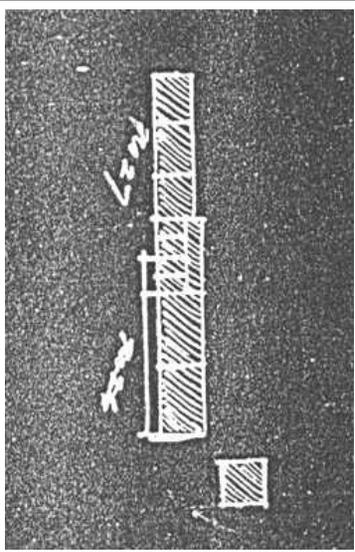
Volunteers who helped with the Library move are SFC Shane Baxter, Pvt. Jamie Trout, PFC Blake McIntyre, Pvt. Richard Barney, Pvt. Ulrich Knekia, Pvt. Maxim Nathan, Specialist Han Kim, all of the 344th Military Intelligence Bn at Goodfellow AFB. Also helping were Austin, Rebecca and Joshua Baxter of San Angelo. Docent John Schultz, John Cobb, and Brian Wicker of Burlison also helped with the move. We were supervised by Buddy Garza and Col. McTaggart.



Different views of the New Post Library at Fort McKavett. There are operational computers, printers, a microfilm viewer, electronic library, books, printed material, maps, photographs, microfilm, DVD's, and Video Tape available for researchers. Call Buddy for an appointment.



In this photograph taken sometime around the early 1900's, the Fort McKavett Officer of the Day Quarters and the Guard House are shown. The Guard House was a long building that held the housing of the guard, the prisoners (in a jail) and the Ordnance Sgt. Quarters.



Left: from the 1883 Final Plat of Fort McKavett's Government Buildings, we find the Guard House and Officer of the Day Quarters. The Officer of the Day Quarters still exist and have been restored. The Guard House building burned in the 1920's.



Guardhouse after the Fire

Special Project Help Needed

On January 7th, there will be a complete "Hands-on inventory" of the Fort McKavett Library items as well as an inventory of all the volunteer program items at Fort McKavett.

This will be all inside heated rooms and everyone that can be there is invited to help us. Saturday lunch will be provided for anyone that comes and a community mess will be available for Breakfast and Supper.

If you can help, contact John Cobb at cobbfarm@ev1.net or Buddy Garza at mckavett@airmail.net so we can plan on your attendance. For those of you who will be staying overnight, we will make arrangements for your stay.



From your editor and contributors of the Fort McKavett Gazette, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe and warm this Holiday Season and we will see you next year.