

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



Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 6, Number 12

December, 2007

Fort McKavett Upcoming Events

Dec 7-9, “Christmas at Old Fort Concho”, San Angelo

Jan 1, Fort McKavett transfers to Texas Historical Commission

Feb 16 & 17, “Remember the Maine Event”, Battleship Texas

Mar 28 & 29, Fort McKavett Education day and West Texas Heritage Day

Apr 11-12, Fort Richardson Days, Friday is Education Day.



**Texas Historical
Commission Transfer
Countdown Date
January 1, 2008**

*Color Copies of all the Fort McKavett
Gazette's can be found at:*
www.fortmckavett.org

A note from the President of the Friends of Fort McKavett



As we are drawing 2007 to a close, we are all getting ready for the change from Texas Parks and Wildlife to the Texas Historical Commission.

Of course, there will be changes, but it looks like quite a few will benefit our Post.

Having worked with both TPWD and THC over the last year, I can say things have gone smoothly in this transition.

We will keep our Staff and have improved funding to add additional Staff, new equipment, and a tremendous input of money for repairs.

I ask everyone to chip in and help make this a great year coming up. Our newsletter and websites will continue as usual and we will keep you updated as we make progress...

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES

**John Cobb
Friends of Fort McKavett**

From the Archives...

Names of Claimants.

Enlisted Men on extra-duty

J. W. Vaden

J. A. Shute

Civilian Employees

W. N. M'Henry

Everett Johnson Jr.

J. W. Vaden

J. A. Shute

Enlisted Men on extra duty

Civilian Employees

Willard Burns

James Smith

Everett Johnson

Casson Can Lewis

H. Atkinson

H. Jaggam

G. V. Kirbee

The above list shows the civilian employees at Fort McKavett at the end of the 1872 fiscal year. This comes from the Quartermaster Records, Department of Texas records. A full copy of these can be found on microfilm or in the electronic library at Fort McKavett

Fort McKavett, December, 1877

Meteorology, Dec. 1875: Monthly mean temperature 54.43°. The warmest day was Dec. 29th - 7 a.m. 60° - 2 p.m. 78° - 9 p.m. 64°. daily mean 67.33°. The coldest day was on Dec 17th - 7 a.m. 34°. 2 p.m. 55°. 9 p.m. 38°. daily mean 42.33°. The lowest temperature during the month was during the night of Dec. 7th 8th & 17th - at which times the thermometer indicated 27° Fahrenheit. The prevailing winds were from the southwest, their number 31 - sum of force 49. Rain fall during the month 4 ¹²/₁₀₀ inches. Average Cloudiness 2.20.

The weather Report for Fort McKavett in December, 1875 as reported by Surgeon Horton

Co. B. 10th Cav. returned to the post Dec. 10th 1875, from recruiting expedition under command of Lieut. Col. W. R. Shafter, 24th Inf. in northern Texas. No medical officers accompanied them.

This entry shows where Captain Veile's Company "C" of the 10th U.S. Cavalry returned from Lt. Col. Shafter's Expedition to the Trans-Pecos area. Company "C" had taken part in an Indian fight on November 29th.



Left: Captain Charles Veile, Commanding Company "C", 10th Cavalry at Fort McKavett. Right: 1st Lt. William H. Beck, second in command of Company "C" serving at Fort McKavett in 1875.

***News about the
Buffalo Soldier
Tragedy of 1877
and Fort
McKavett...***



On Tuesday, October 30, 2007, the Cochran County Commissioner's Court approved the installation of white granite military headstones in Morton Memorial Cemetery in honor of four Buffalo Soldiers of U.S. 10th Cavalry, Company "A", who perished in the fateful Lost Troop Expedition of 1877.

- **Private John H. Bonds**, "A" Co. 10th U.S. Cavalry died July 30, 1877 from exhaustion from want of water on march on Staked Plains. He enlisted November 20, 1876 in Washington, DC. The former laborer was born in Bedford County, Virginia and was 21 1/6 years old at enlistment. He had black eyes, black hair and a black complexion. He stood 5' 7 3/4."
- **Private Isaac Derwin**, "A" Co. 10th U.S. Cavalry died July 30, 1877 of exhaustion from want of water on march on Staked Plains. He enlisted November 29, 1876 at Nashville, Tennessee. He was a laborer born in York District, South Carolina. He was 24 years old at time of enlistment. He had brown eyes, black hair, and a brown complexion. He stood 5' 8 1/2."
- **Private John Isaacs**, "A" Co. 10th U.S. Cavalry died July 30, 1877. He had enlisted only a few months earlier on January 26, 1877 in Baltimore, Maryland, also listed as the place of birth. Isaacs was 5' 6 3/4", had black hair, eyes and complexion and listed waiter as a previous occupation. He was 25 years 8 months old at enlistment.
- **Private John T. Gordon**, "A" Co. 10th U.S. Cavalry died July 30, 1877. The 5' 6" former laborer with black hair and eyes enlisted the day after Christmas 1876. He was 28 years old at the time. He came from Norfolk, Virginia but enlisted in Baltimore, Maryland.

Fort McKavett has joined with the Texas Buffalo Soldiers over the last four years in this project. This coming June, we will again take part.



As time draws near for the transfer of Fort McKavett from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to the Texas Historical Commission, final inventories and paperwork have been taking center stage. In this November photograph, we see Staff from Austin inventorying the Post Library and Research Center.



Ken Pollard of TPWD's Buffalo Soldier Program explains how Fort McKavett will still be a staging site for the program and our tents and equipment we have on site will stay for our use.

Parks Staff have been working with our Staff on site over the last few months to make sure our transfer to THC goes smoothly. January 1st, 2008, we will be completely transferred to the new agency. There have been no problems so far, but you can imagine the logistics involved in something this massive. Everything from radios, computers, uniforms, telephone lines, etc. must be ready to go. We look like we are on target for the first of the year.

A Christmas Message from Our Staff



From Left to Right: Gennie, Ken, Alfredo, and Buddy in Fort McKavett's Officers Quarters Number 4



*A wish for
everyone to
have a
wonderful
Christmas
and stay
safe!*



In Memory

Roger Landers of San Angelo made a generous donation to the Friends of Fort McKavett in memory of Ila Mae Davis. Ila Mae was a lifetime resident of Menard County, a rancher and a historian. She was born on the family ranch on September 19, 1919.

Her greatest accomplishment was the compilation and publishing of "Menard County History - An Anthology". Ila Mae strived to pass down her knowledge of history of Menard to her family and others. She passed away October 7th.



Fort McKavett was the first stop on a week long Texas history tour by the 7th grade class from All Saints Episcopal School. Using Camp Capers Episcopal camp grounds as their daily jump off point, nineteen boys and girls and there sponsors traveled by bus to the historic sites. Besides Fort McKavett, they visited, the Alamo, Goliad, LBJ Park, Enchanted Rock, the Bob Bullock Museum and our state's capital.

While at Fort McKavett, the young people first toured the museum. It was here that they had to find answers to questions found in their trip journals. Lead Ranger Alfredo Muñoz next treated them to a presentation of Army life in the 1870s. Finally, Alfredo gave them a tour of the various buildings at the fort.

The staff wants to thank the school for selecting Fort McKavett to be a part of their trip and look forward to their return next year.