

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



# Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 10, Number 12

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**December 2-4**, Christmas at Old Fort Concho, education day on Friday.

**March 2-3**, Fort Clark Living History, education day on Friday.

**March 17**, Fort McKavett Spring Star Party\*.

**March 23-24**, Fort McKavett’s West Texas Heritage Days, education day on Friday\*.

\*THC Historic Sites Event

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



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
real places telling real stories

**Merry Christmas from  
your Gazette Staff and  
our Fort McKavett  
Volunteers!**



**We wish you a safe and great  
Christmas and New Years**

**Take time to visit the site this  
winter. We hope to see you soon!**

**John Cobb, President  
Friends of Fort McKavett**



# 150th Civil War Commemoration: Imprisoned on the Frontier November 18-20, 2011

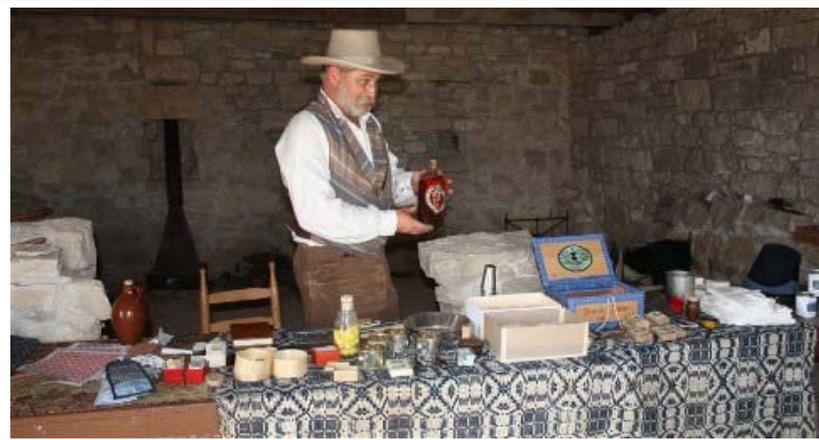
By Lynn Dippel

From February 1862 to April 1862, 17 military posts were abandoned or surrendered to Texas state troops. With an estimated 1,350 Texas state troops, Col. Earl Van Dorn and Col. Henry E. McCulloch confronted 320 Federal troops commanded by Brevet Col. I.V.D. Reeve of the 8th Regiment of Infantry US, 15 miles out of San Antonio, where they surrendered without firing a shot. Several of these soldiers were sent to Fort McKavett as prisoners.



The Federal prisoners had fairly lax restrictions; they were to remain within ¼ miles from the center of the camp at any given time unless they had written permission and were accompanied by a guard. Col. Henry E. McCulloch stressed humane treatment; proper rations and protection for the prisoners that were being held with his regiment on the frontier. By April 1862 the prisoners that were held by McCulloch regiment were moved to Ft. Mason.

Forty living historians from 13 states participated in a reenactment of this imprisonment. The daily life of the fort was carried out: Foraged deer were skinned & butchered for rations until the next wagon of supplies was sent up from San Antonio. Guard duty was carried out by the Texans. Texans and POWs alike bartered and purchased items from Sam Wallick's sutler store. One of the Texans was charged and punished for disorderly conduct towards officers, profanity, insubordination on work details, shooting at fellow soldiers, and discharging a firearm in the barracks. He was hung by his thumbs for two hours. The POWs entertained themselves by holding a hardtack eating contest with the winner being awarded a bottle of ginger beer from the sutler's store. The daily rations of venison, cabbage, potatoes, beans and hardtack were based on items that would have been available from San Antonio during this time of year and what could be foraged locally.



*Images from "Imprisoned on the Frontier"*



Supper on the line...



# From the 1881 Army Regulations

## ARTICLE LVI.

### SOLDIERS' HOME.

**§36.** Application for admission to the Soldiers' Home, near Washington, D. C., should be made to the Adjutant General of the Army for reference to the Board of Commissioners.—[*War Dept., June 27, 1868.*]

**§37.** When a soldier, by reason of old age and long service, or of disability contracted in line of duty, becomes a candidate for admission to the Soldiers' Home, his company commander will so report, through proper military channels, to the Adjutant General of the Army, giving all details that may be needed for a full understanding of the case.

This report will be referred to the Board of Commissioners of the Home, and if, in their opinion, the soldier is entitled to become an inmate, the necessary authority will be given to order him to Washington for temporary admission to the Soldiers' Home.

The Governor of the Home shall, in less than thirty days, report the man's physical condition to the Adjutant General, with a view to his return to duty or discharge from the service.

The descriptive list, *which should be sent by mail*, should give full particulars in regard to physical condition and the circumstances under which any disability may have been contracted.—[*G. O. 37, 1880.*]

**§38.** It is expected that men already discharged from the Army, and entitled to admission to the Home, will bear their own expenses in reaching it. Urgent exceptional cases may be reported to the Adjutant General for decision of the Secretary of War. The transportation, by the Quartermaster's Department, of persons to the Soldiers' Home is forbidden, unless it is ordered by the Secretary of War on the application of the Board of Commissioners of the Soldiers' Home.—[*Dec. Sec. War, G. O. 54, 1877.*]

**§39.** No commanding officer is authorized to give orders to issue clothing or subsistence, to be repaid from the funds of the Home.—[*War Dept., April 25, 1878.*]

# From the Army Bakers Manual

(Abernethy Biscuit, Round Biscuit - Cookie)

## ABERNETHY BISCUIT, (1.)

16 lbs flour.	1½ to 2 oz caraway seed.
2 lbs butter.	4 oz ammonia.
2½ lbs sugar.	2 oz salt.

Mix very stiff with milk and water, (half and half); let stand from two to four hours; roll out ¼ inch thick; cut with Abernethy biscuit cutter.

# Fort McKavett Star Party

October 29, 2011

Submitted by Lynn Dippel



Above: Chris Wells and his telescope. There were about 100 people that came on Saturday.



Above: Al Kelly preparing to do astrophotography  
Below: Supper at the Fort for the Johnson Space Center Astronomical Society



Shane Ramotowski showing viewers the moon. It was partly cloudy night.

