

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



Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 13, Number 12

December, 2014

Fort McKavett Upcoming Events

December 5-7, “Christmas at Fort Concho”, Education Day on Friday, Fort Concho

December 12-14, “Winter, 1852”, Fort McKavett SHS*

January 17, “Frontier Economy: The Sutler’s Store”, Fort McKavett SHS*

February 7, “A Stitch in Time”, Fort McKavett SHS*

March 27-28, “West Texas Heritage Days”, Education Day on Friday, Fort McKavett SHS*

**THC Historic Sites Event*



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www.fortmckavett.org

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President’s Message...

November began with the sad news of the passing of Friends of Fort McKavett member and supporter Greg Hector. Many of us attended his funeral in Brady. He will be missed after having him around for 30 years at the site.

December marks Buddy’s last month as manager of Fort McKavett State Historic Site. There are a lot of changes about to happen in our THC system and at Fort McKavett. We will keep you informed as we go on these. I have faith in THC to find us good, qualified people to fill these positions.

As we are all gearing up for the Christmas season, everyone keep safe and have a Merry Christmas!

John Cobb
President
Friends of Fort McKavett

Fort McKavett at Menard Veterans Day Parade



Jay and Cody with cannon on the float representing Fort McKavett in the annual Veterans Day Parade in Menard



Getting ready for Fort McKavett's Winter, 1852 event which will be occurring December 12-14. Painting and cleaning the barracks furniture.

Winter, 1852 Event
This will be a semi-immersion event that showcases "a day in the life of Fort McKavett." Join living historians from all across the U.S. as they go through the daily routine of a frontier post. From the sound of reveille in the morning through tattoo at dusk, the living historians of Co. H, 8th US Infantry will be living the life of a regular stationed at Fort McKavett in December 1852. Drill and fatigue details will be ongoing throughout the day.



Taps for an Old Friend



**Gregory
Timothy
Hector
1946-2014**

We lost a good friend and mentor November 9, 2014 with the passing of Greg Hector. Greg and his wife, Donna, have supported Fort McKavett and our Friends of Fort McKavett for 30 years as an educator, bugler, artilleryman, and volunteer on site.

His funeral was held in Brady on the 15th with the burial services held in Coleman. There were over 200 people in attendance in Brady and almost that many in Coleman. Several people wore their reenacting uniforms to the services and there were cannons and rifle shots at his interment ceremony.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife and family at this time. He will be missed by all of us.



Big Changes in Store for Fort McKavett



December marks the end of a 25 ½ year career at Fort McKavett State Historic Site for Site Manager Buddy Garza. The changes he has seen and done himself at the site will live on for years and years to come. We wish him the best of everything in his retirement!

Buddy's Grandmother had given him these two rockers. He had them on the porch of the Hospital at the site for several years and now are on his porch at home. I would be willing to bet we won't be seeing him sitting there very long at a time in his retirement!



We will also be losing Donna Williams the Sites Director of the Texas Historical Commission the first of January. She has been in this position since the transfer to THC of the site from Texas Parks and Wildlife. She has been instrumental in our increased budgets and planning for the site. It has been a joy to work with her over her tenure and we wish her the best of everything in her retirement!



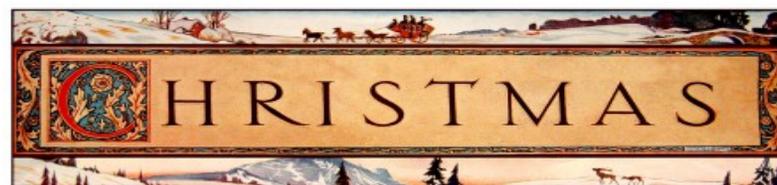
We will keep you informed on the new additions to our Managers position and THC Sites Director position as soon as we hear anything...

Welcome our THC Family Jefferson Spilman Fort Lancaster State Historic Site Manager



Mr. Spilman previously served as site supervisor at the Three Rivers Park District in Shakopee, Minnesota for eight years where he supervised and managed The Landing-Minnesota River Heritage Park (a living history park focused on Minnesota history from 1840–1890). Prior to that he was the chief of interpretation at the Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier in Petersburg, Virginia, and he previously worked as an associate curator at the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas.

Also retiring from THC Sites at the first of the year is Dixie Hoover, the Site Manager at the Confederate Reunion Grounds in Mexia. Many of you will remember her time at Fort McKavett as an intern with Texas Parks and Wildlife before becoming the THC Manager at CRG.



From the 1857 Army Regulations *Dealing with Barracks*

956. . . . No permanent buildings for the army, as barracks, quarters, hospitals, store-houses, offices, or stables, or piers, or wharves, shall be erected but by order of the Secretary of War, and according to the plan directed by him, and in consequence of appropriations made by law. And no alteration shall be made in any such public building without authority from the War Department.

89. . . . The name of each soldier will be labeled on his bunk, and his company number will be placed against his arms and accoutrements.

90. . . . The arms will be placed in the arm-racks, the stoppers in the muzzles, the cocks let down, and the bayonets in their scabbards; the accoutrements suspended over the arms, and the swords hung up by the belts on pegs.

91. . . . The knapsack of each man will be placed on the lower shelf of his bunk, at its foot, packed with his effects, and ready to be slung; the great-coat on the same shelf, rolled and strapped; the coat, folded inside out, and placed under the knapsack; the cap on the second or upper shelf; and the boots well cleaned.

92. . . . Dirty clothes will be kept in an appropriate part of the knapsack; no article of any kind to be put under the bedding.

93. . . . Cooking utensils and table equipage will be cleaned and arranged in closets or recesses; blacking and brushes out of view; the fuel in boxes.

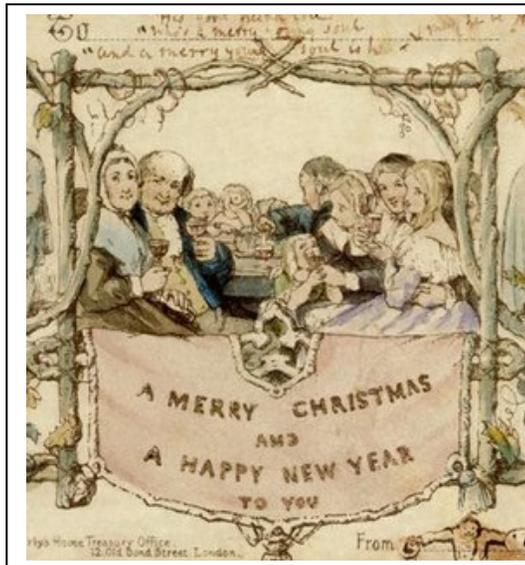
94. . . . Ordinarily the cleaning will be on Saturdays. The chiefs of squads will cause bunks and bedding to be overhauled; floors dry rubbed; tables and benches scoured; arms cleaned; accoutrements whitened and polished, and every thing put in order.

95. . . . Where conveniences for bathing are to be had, the men should bathe once a week. The feet to be washed at least twice a week. The hair *kept short*, and beard neatly trimmed.

96. . . . Non-commissioned officers, in command of squads, will be held more immediately responsible that their men observe what is prescribed above; that they wash their hands and faces daily; that they brush or comb their heads; that those who are to go on duty put their arms, accoutrements, dress, &c., in the best order, and that such as have permission to pass the chain of sentinels are in the dress that may be ordered.

From the Army Cooks Manual

CHRISTMAS DINNER.
Oyster Soup and Crackers.
Roast Turkey with Dressing.
Cranberry Sauce.
Boiled Ham and Mashed Potatoes.
Green Peas.
Asparagus with Cream Sauce.
Celery.
Lettuce Salad.
Pumpkin Pie.
Peach Pie.
Jelly Roll.
Marble Cake.
Mixed Candies and Nuts.
Crushed Strawberries and Cream.
Bread and Butter.
Coffee.



*The Friends of
Fort McKavett
wish you and
your family a
Merry Christmas
and a Happy
New Year!
If you are
traveling this
year, stay safe
and warm...*