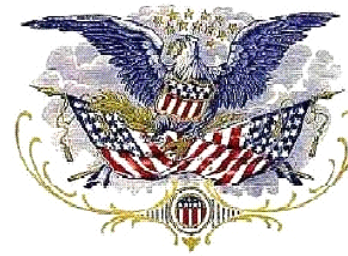


Fort McKavett State Historical Site  
P. O. Box 68  
Fort McKavett, Texas 76841



# Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 7, Number 2

February, 2008

## Fort McKavett Upcoming Events

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

March 7&8, Fort Clark Living History Event

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

April 5, Fort McKavett Spring Star Party

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

April 12, "Living History Days", Mission Tejas State Historic Site

April 26, Lake Brownwood State Park School Day and Open house

May 2-3, Fort Chadbourne Days Living History Event, Student Day is the 2nd

May 10th, Fort Mason 150th anniversary

June 28-29, Texas' Last Frontier Heritage Celebration, Morton



Gazette's can be found at:

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



TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

[www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us)

## *Friends of Fort McKavett A Message from the President*

**Our changes are starting to take place! We are adding new people to the Staff, getting new equipment and vehicles, and starting a new marketing effort for Fort McKavett.**

**We have some exciting things coming up, Indian Wars tours, Living History events, another one of the Old Stories, New Voices camps, Star Parties, and a lot of other events in the months to come. Look at the schedule to your left. There will be more as soon as we find out their dates.**

**Buddy and his staff are off to the races and we will be there to support them in any way we can.**

**As soon as we have details, we will be putting them in the Gazette.**

*John*

# West Texas Heritage Days



## Fort McKavett State Historic Site

March 28<sup>th</sup> (Friday) Education Day; March 29<sup>th</sup>  
(Saturday), 2008

Educational Tours and Exhibits for Students on Friday  
28<sup>th</sup>

General Public on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>

### *Exhibits include:*

Buffalo Soldiers – Infantry – Artillery (Cannons) – Cavalry –  
Medical – Soap Making – Blacksmith Shop – Officers Quarters –  
Enlisted Men's Barracks – Frontier Ladies – Native American  
Exhibits

Saturday Barbeque Lunch Provided by the Friends of Fort  
McKavett

Donations would be appreciated to help defray the cost of the  
food.

Adults \$3.00; Children/Students (12 & under) No Charge; Seniors  
\$2.00

For more information, contact Alfredo Muñoz at Fort McKavett State Historic  
Site (325) 396-2358 or [mckavett@airmail.net](mailto:mckavett@airmail.net)

## Friends Group has a new Gas Grill!



*Above: Fort McKavett Site Manager Buddy Garza with our  
new grill bought by the Friends of Fort McKavett.*

With all the Special Events Fort McKavett hosts year  
around, we have purchased a new gas grill for Buddy and  
the crew to use on those occasions we don't need the big  
cooker.

## Needed for our March Event:

If you can help us, we need:

- 1) Items for the Silent Auction
- 2) Help serving Lunch on Saturday
- 3) Salads and Deserts for our Noon Lunch on Saturday

If you can help, contact the Fort or Alfredo Muñoz!

This year, we will be having several **SPECIAL  
PRESENTATIONS** starting at 11:00 AM on  
Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> in the Big Tent.

## Please Plan on being there!

## Fort McKavett in February 1869

*Under the very able administration of Lieut John Murphy 2<sup>d</sup> Regt  
 many changes and improvements have taken place, at present the  
 Post has the appearance of being what the Government designed it  
 to be, a "Military Post."  
 Average monthly of sick in hospital "three men."*

*John Ridgely  
 Post Surgeon*

*In this Medical Journal Entry dated February, 1869, John  
 Ridgely the Post Surgeon talks about the Post under 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.  
 John Murphy, 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry is finally starting to look like the  
 "Government Designation" it was being called.*



*A coffee or spice mill can be cleansed by grinding  
 a handful of raw rice in it. The particles of spice,  
 pepper, or coffee will not adhere after the rice is  
 ground through the mill.*

## From the Manual for Army Cooks

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MANUAL FOR ARMY COOKS.

N. B.—In washing any greasy utensil, it is best, if possible, to use the hand instead of flannel or rags, as they retain the grease, and so keep putting it on again, instead of scrubbing it off.

All utensils after being used should be at once filled with hot water and set over the fire to scald thoroughly, and before being set away should be cleaned and dried. Grease remaining in a vessel will make it rancid, and moisture will rust it.



*We have seen these all over the Fort McKavett area,  
 but do you know the story behind them?*

In the early 1890's, Colonel William Leslie Black, a rancher from Fort McKavett, Texas, set out to thin out his overgrown stock of Angora goats. Deciding there was money to be made by selling the meat, Black created the Range Canning Company, one of West Texas' first meat-packing firms. The general public was not ready for goat meat, thus Black purchased some four-color labels and called his product "Roast Mutton." The Colonel found it difficult in selling his Roast Mutton, and ordered new labels entitled "Boiled Mutton" – See the labels at the top and bottom of this page. Around this time, Black hired W.G. Tobin from a Chicago meat packing firm to oversee his canning operation. The repackaging as "Boiled Mutton" failed and Black again changed the label, this time to "W. G. Tobin's Chili-Con-Carne. These mislabeled cans were marketed in Europe to much success.

Of course, one of the problems they had in selling these products in the United States was the miss-labeling. Was it goat or sheep people were buying?



## *Another Area Attraction*



The Next time you come to the Fort, take a little side trip and go by the Presidio de San Saba at Menard. Texas Tech has been doing archeological work over the last few years and have found quite a bit of the original Spanish Fort.

Originally known as Presidio San Luis de las Amarillas, it was constructed in April of 1757 by a Spanish force led by Captain Don Diego Ortiz Parilla. One of the main reasons for the Presidio was the protection of Mission San Saba. But the Priests decided it was to be built 3 miles from the Mission. When the mission was destroyed by Indians in 1758, the soldiers could not protect them because of the distance. The presidio was abandoned in 1772 by order of the Viceroy of New Spain.

The Texas Centennial Commission rebuilt part of the Presidio during the mid-1930's. It is well worth seeing.

Troopers from Fort McKavett used the ruins and grounds to camp on as they came through the area between 1852 and 1883.

Menard County owns the site and there are no admission charges. Be sure to bring your camera.

## **Meet the Soldiers at McKavett**

*Surgeon Middleton was on duty at Fort McKavett from March 1868 to November 1868. His office was located in the Old Hospital ruins in front of the 1875 building. He arrived with Company "A" of the 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry and left when he was transferred to Austin Headquarters in November. He later transferred to Washington D.C. with his wife Margaret.*



Middleton, Johnson Van Dyck.  
D C. D C. Asst surg 5 Aug 1861; maj  
surg 26 June 1876; lt col dep surg gen  
8 May 1893; bvt capt and maj 13 Mar  
1865 for fai and mer ser dur the war;  
retd 15 Dec 1898.

*From Heitman's Registry*



## *Fort McKavett is adding new Staff*

We will have new staff members joining our team at Fort McKavett beginning the 8<sup>th</sup> of February. As they come on board, we will introduce them in the newsletter. There will be two new maintenance slots, one administrative slot, and a new curator at the Site. Buddy and the Staff have been busy with interviews and recommendations to the Historical Commission about our new employees. Congratulations to Alfredo Munoz for being named Assistant Site Manager and to Ken Lester for being named Maintenance Supervisor. This is just the tip of the iceberg for the changes coming to Fort McKavett. We have new trucks coming, new tractors, new mowers, and several other pieces of equipment that will help the site stay the premier Fort in Texas.