



Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

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

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Fort McKavett Upcoming Events

March 5-6, Fort Clark Living History Event
March 13, Fort McKavett Public Spring Star Party

*****March 13-14, Fort Concho, School of the Soldier (Cancelled)*****

March 26 - 27, Fort McKavett* "West Texas Heritage Days" Education Day on Friday
March 27, Fort McKavett, Annual Friends of Fort McKavett Meeting

April 16-18, Fort Richardson Living History Days. Education Day on Friday

April 16-18, Confederate Reunion Grounds*, 16th Annual Civil War Living History and Reenactment, Education Day on Friday

April 30-May 1, Fort Chadbourne, Education day on Friday

May 7-8, Lake Brownwood State Park Open House, Education Day on Friday

May 11, Lake Arrowhead State Park, Education Day

May 15-16, Battleship Texas, Armed Forces Day Event

May 14-16, Texas State Railroad, Armed Forces Day Event

May 21-22, Fort Lancaster* Living History Days. Education Day on Friday

June 26-27 Cochran County Last Frontier Days, Morton

October 2, Texas Forts Trail, Frontier Texas, Abilene

October 8-9, Fort Griffin* Living History Event

October 9, Fort McKavett Public Fall Star Party

October 15-16, Fort Stockton Living History Days, Education Day on Friday

*THC Historic Sites Event

Notes from the Post...

Inside this edition of the Gazette, you will find information on this year's West Texas Heritage Days. If you haven't registered, you will need to as soon as possible. We need to have an accurate account of presenters so we can feed everyone.

In other news, we received a letter from THC thanking everyone for their hard work this last year. I would like to add my thanks as well for everyone's dedication and efforts.

John Cobb
President
Friends of Fort McKavett



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www.fortmckavett.org

Last Year's West Texas Heritage Days



Above: Part of the Artillery Park at Fort McKavett's West Texas Heritage Days in 2009. This year's event looks like it will be another great one with Cavalry, Artillery, Infantry, Medical, Civilian Displays, Camel Corps, and modern U.S. Army Displays. Make sure you mark your calendar for March 26 and 27 this year.

Right: Flag raising ceremony at Fort McKavett's Education Day in 2009. There are flag raising ceremonies and formal retreats on both days of the event. Visitors have a chance to see how the Indian Wars Army performed these daily ceremonies.



Left: John and John Andrew Schultz at Fort Concho. Andrew is now in basic training with the Marine Corps. We have watched Andrew grow up over the years and are almost as proud of him as his folks. The next time we get to see Andrew, he will be a United States Marine!



Right: Texas Parks and Wildlife's Ken Pollard has announced his retirement effective March, 2010. Ken says he will still keep an active roll at Fort McKavett and will see us on the trail. As you can see by his photograph, he has been practicing his whittling skills. He has been able to make quite a few toothpicks!



Several people have written and asked for more Army Recipes, so here is one for Soup...

ST. PATRICK'S SOUP.

(Sufficient for 22 men.)

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 6 pounds meat and fat. | 1 large cabbage. |
| 6 pounds potatoes. | 1 pound flour. |
| 1 pound onions. | 6 ounces salt. |
| 1 pound celery. | 6 ounces sugar. |
| 1 pound turnip. | 6 tablespoonfuls vinegar. |
| 1 pound carrot. | 3½ gallons water. |

Cut the meat into pieces one inch square, the fat into smaller pieces; place them in the boiler; when

warm add the vegetables (except the potatoes) cut very small, stir them round so that they do not burn; when they are on the point of doing so add the water by degrees; peel the potatoes, put them in a net, and place them in the boiler; when done take them out and mash them; after the soup has been boiling two hours add the potatoes, with the seasoning and flour mixed, and the vinegar; boil slowly for thirty minutes, keep stirring it, and serve.

From the Army Cook Manual

And some "fried bread" and dessert to go with your soup...

FRIED BREAD FOR SOUPS.

Cut stale bread into dice, and fry in boiling fat until brown. It will take about half a minute.

RICE TOAD-IN-THE-HOLE.

(Sufficient for 22 men.)

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 4 pounds rice. | ¼ ounce salt. |
| 2 pounds sugar. | ½ ounce cinnamon. |
| 2 quarts milk. | 22 apples. |

Treat the rice as in Baked Rice Pudding, and place it in the baking dish; have some apples peeled and sliced, lay them in the rice, sift sugar over them, and bake.

March 1877 Weather for Fort McKavett

Meteorological:

Monthly mean temperature 59.11°
Minimum temperature during the month 22° Fahr.
Maximum temperature during the month 90° Fahr.
Prevailing winds, South and Southwest.
No. of days of rain, 3.
Amount of rain fall, 0.84 inch.
Average Cloudiness - 3.83.

The Temperature for Fort McKavett ran between 22 degrees and 90 degrees for the month of March 1877. They also had 3 days of rain for a total of 0.84 inches for the month. From the Medical Journal, Fort McKavett, Texas

Office Reg'l & Post Quartermaster.

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Fort Mc Kavett, Tex. June 30th 1872

. Minutes on Character of Buildings Constructed during the period from ending June 30th 1872, at Fort McKavett Texas.

No. of buildings	Size	Material	Remarks
1. Stryg. Inf. Quarters	20 x 15	Stone, Shingle Roof	
2. Office Quarters Room	18 x 22	Stone Shingle Roof	
3. Shops Stryg. Bldg.	80 x 22	Stone	Approximate building standing
4. C. Kitchen & Mess room	14 x 18	Stone Shingle Roof	
5. Addition to Comp. Stryg. house	60 x 30	Stone Shingle Roof	
6. Kitchen to off. Quarters	25 x 12	Stone Shingle Roof	
7. Stryg. Quarters house	18 x 20	Stone	Unfinished
8. Stryg. Hospital	Construction has just been commenced - door casing, sash, up to top of door and windows in execution - building otherwise incomplete		

Building Construction at Fort McKavett in 1872 per the Quartermasters Report.



Fort McKavett Needs You!

West Texas Heritage Days are a little under two months away. If you are participating in this year's event and have not sent in your registration form, please do so soon. We need to know how many and who is coming so we can prepare our handouts, arrange for housing, and ensure we have enough food on-hand. If you didn't get a registration form or have misplaced your form, visit the Friends web site at www.fortmckavett.org. Follow the link for West Texas Heritage Day. You may also call Ken Lester at 325-396-2358. Ken will answer any questions you might have.

We can also use volunteers for Friday's Education Day and on Saturday. We will need volunteers to organize and serve the ladies tea on Friday afternoon, assist with the Friend's silent auction, help with serving or cleanup at the breakfasts, dinner, or our noon BBQ, help make sandwiches on Friday, assist with teacher registration, register participants on Friday and Saturday, deliver sandwiches and drinks at lunch on Friday, restock supplies at the porta-potties, assist our participants with site setups/take-downs, or answering any questions, delivering firewood, reproduction of handouts, and golf cart driver for our elderly visitors. If you can help out with one or more tasks please contact Ken Lester or Cody Mobley at the fort, 325-396-2358. Let us know if there is something in particular you would like to help with.



Time for Fort Clark Again...

March 5th-6th is Fort Clark's Event again this year. It looks like Fort McKavett will have a full contingent of Volunteers at this year's kickoff of the Living History events.

Photograph at Left: Fort McKavett Site Manager Buddy Garza and friend from last year's event.

We will have a full report in the next issue of the Gazette.

From the 1871 Description of Posts U.S. Army Men's Quarters

For three hundred men (can shelter seven hundred by using mess buildings), one stone building, and four plank buildings for non-commissioned staff and mess rooms. Officers' quarters, eight sets, built of stone.

To give everyone an idea of the size of Fort McKavett, in 1871 (before the last two sets of Barracks were finished) we could house 300 men and up to 700 by using the Mess Buildings. After the last Barracks were built, they had room for about 1,000 men and used those buildings when Regiments were changing stations.