

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



Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 2, Number 1

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Information for the newsletter?
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Christmas at Fort Concho

December 6-8 found the Garrison of Fort McKavett at the annual Christmas at Fort Concho Event.

We were represented by elements of the 4th, 9th, and 10th Cavalry, our infantry and the 24th Infantry Regiments.

We had in excess of 35 people involved with the Post in this event.

Crowds ran (according to Fort Concho Staff), 32-35 Thousand on Friday and Saturday and 1,200 Students on Friday.

We had a large exhibit with 9 tents, three fly's and lots of historical exhibits.



Part of the Color Guard



Otis Williams



Johnny Johnson and Buddy Garza

Call to Arms... Events For Fort McKavett



December 6,7,8, Christmas at Fort Concho

February 14-15, Battleship Texas, U.S.S. Maine Memorial and Living History Timeline

March 21-23, Fort McKavett, West Texas Heritage Days

May 17-18, Texas State Railroad Living History Timeline

OQ #10 in the snow



Officers Quarters Update

Ken Pollard brought the first load of furniture to Fort McKavett from Austin on the way to Fort Concho. These included a chest of drawers that were used at Fort McKavett and several small displays that will be used in one of the buildings.

We are looking forward to seeing what they will end up

Websites for Fort McKavett

Fort McKavett Volunteers:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FortMcKavett/>

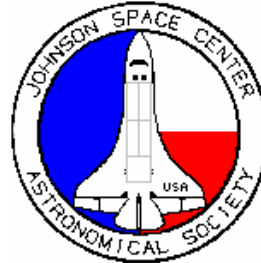
Fort McKavett Tour:*

<http://www.msusers.com/FortMcKavettTour>

Living History Schedules:*

<http://groups.msn.com/TexasLivingHistoryEvents/homepage>

*These two sites require a hotmail or msn email address. These are free and can be acquired at www.hotmail.com



Winter Nights under the Sky

By Lisa Lester,

Amateur astronomers love to star gaze in the winter. The nights are longer and on a cool, crisp, clear evening visibility is great. Stargazers are also pleased to be able to see the winter constellations early in the evening. Bold and bright Orion rises in the east-southeast about an hour after darkness falls. Taurus will also move high into the sky while Canis Major will be closer to the horizon. Some objects that you can easily view in the winter sky naked eye or with a pair of binoculars are: The Andromeda Galaxy, The Pleiades, Sirius, the sky's brightest stars. Don't forget to look for the planets Saturn and Jupiter in the night sky and as sunrise approaches locate Venus and Mars. During these busy winter months, don't forget to stop and take sometime to enjoy the wonders above you. But please be sure to bundle up first!

The next Fort McKavett Star Party is on March 29, 2003

Assistant Surgeon Samuel M. Horton, Commanding Hospital at Fort McKavett from November 1872 until May, 1876

Like most of the Officers and Enlisted Men who served at Fort McKavett, Dr. Samuel Horton was involved in the history of the west in several locations. Before he came to Fort McKavett, he was the Surgeon at Fort Philip Kearney and was on hand for the "Fetterman Massacre", December 21, 1866. This is where the Sioux under Red Cloud and Crazy Horse killed Captain William J. Fetterman and eighty men. He had to perform the post mortems on the victims. This was the worse defeat the U.S. Army had until Custer's Defeat by most of these same Indians in 1876, just two months after Dr. Horton left Fort McKavett.

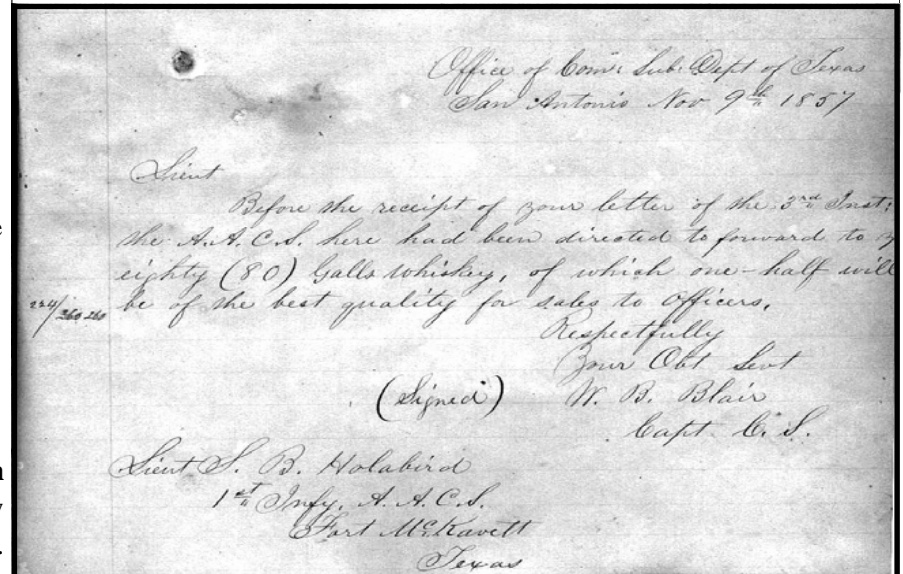
Military record of civilian appointments in the United States Army By Guy V. Henry, U.S. Army

SAMUEL M. HORTON. [Born in Pennsylvanica.-Appointed from Pennsylvania.] Assistant Surgeon U. S. Army, August, 1861. At the New House of Refuge General Hospital, St. Louis, Mo., to October, 1862. Floating Hospital, Nashville, Tenn., to November, 1862. In the field with the 3d Corps, and 1st U. S. Infantry, to September, 1863. At General Hospital, New Orleans, La., to January, 1865. Hospital duty at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., New Albany, Ind., and St. Louis, Mo., to July, 1865. At Camp Thomas, Columbus, O., to November, 1865. Fort Kearney, Neb., to May, 1866. Brevet Captain and Major U. S. Army, for faithful and meritorious services during the war. Post Surgeon, Fort Philip Kearney, D. T., from May, 1866, Fort McKavett, Texas from November 1872, until May, 1876, Fort Riley, Kansas From June, 1885, until March, 1887, Maj. and Surg. Samuel Miller Horton was hospital commander and post surgeon. Doctor Horton was born in Pennsylvania and was appointed an assistant surgeon on August 26, 1861. He received a brevet major rank in 1865 and was promoted to lieutenant colonel and deputy surgeon general in December, 1893. He retired in June, 1894

And From Heitmans

Horton, Samuel Miller. Pa., Asst. surg 26 Aug 1861; maj surg 26 June 1876; lt col dep surg gen 4 Dec 1893; bvt capt and maj 13 Mar 1865 for mai and mer ser dur the war; retd 6 June 1894

From the Archives



It must have looked like are real cold winter...

Lt. S. B. Holabird of the 1st Infantry was Acting Assistant Commissary of Subsistence for the Post when he ordered this 80 gallons of whiskey for the Officers of Fort McKavett in 1857. The list from Heitmans on Holabird states:

*** Holabird, Samuel Beckley. Conn.**
Conn. Cadet M A 1 July 1845 (**31**);
 bvt 2 lt 1 inf 1 July 1849; 2 lt 10 June
 1850; 1 lt 31 May 1855; r q m 1 July 1852
 to 31 May 1858; capt a q m 13 May 1861;
 maj a a d c 2 July 1862; col a a d c 11 July
 1862; hon must out as a a d c 31 May
 1866; lt col d q m gen 29 July 1866; col
 a q m gen 22 Jan 1881; brig gen q m gen
 1 July 1883; retd 16 June 1890; bvt maj
 lt col col and brig gen 13 Mar 1865 for fai
 and mer ser dur the war.

Darcy L. Maloney, Maj, USAF is one of our many Volunteers at Fort McKavett. There have been several requests for scholarship information, so this is her reply.



Many people have asked me about my job as an ROTC instructor at Angelo State University. In response, I'd like to inform all of you about the many options at ASU and with Air Force ROTC.

First, the Air Force has a wonderful scholarship that will pay tuition, books and a \$250-400 monthly stipend to cadets for the entire 4 years. To apply, go to www.afrotc.com The application period typically runs from March of a student's junior year to early December of a student's senior year. This scholarship can be used at ANY university with an ROTC program! A little known fact about this scholarship is that if a student uses it for the first year and decides he/she doesn't like ROTC, the AF will allow them to "walk" without asking for the money back. After the second year starts, that deal goes away!

Second Angelo State has several scholarships to offer. The biggest is the Carr Academic Scholarship (\$6000 per year) with more money offered to students who are staying in the dorms. The Special Academic Scholarship is offered to students who major in Physics, Math, Chemistry, BioChemistry, French or German.... and pays up to \$7000 per year! Lastly, we have the Carr ROTC scholarship, offered to cadets enrolled in ROTC at Angelo State. This is a private scholarship and incurs no military commitment paying up to \$1500 per year.

Tuition at Angelo State runs about \$1500 per semester... all state universities have the same tuition rates, but the difference is in the fees. For instance, parking at ASU is about \$35 per year-- compare that with other schools!

ASU is a small school (about 6000) and the instructors really care about the students. There are no Teaching Assistance and class size is about 50 at the largest. ASU boasts the highest acceptance rate for medical school of any public university in Texas.

If you would like more information, please go to our website at www.angelo.edu/dept/aerospace_rotc or contact me at (915) 942-2036 or email: darcy.maloney@angelo.edu

Report from the Ladies of the Fort

By Robin Gilliam



The "Ladies of the Fort" hosted a tea at Christmas at Old Fort Concho. Our invitations did not specify which fort, but the ladies in charge were, indeed, Fort McKavett volunteers Dixie Hoover and Darcy Maloney. Guests to the cozy tent were served hot spiced cider and cookies, and everyone enjoyed meeting other women and girls who love Texas history.

The Fort Concho gathering was a "timeline" event, and I believe that participants could attend in civilian or military attire ranging from the American Revolution through World War I - quite a long time span. However, most of the women at the Christmas weekend appeared in Civil War era dresses, myself included. The rest donned generic pioneer outfits, buckskins, or 1880s costumes.

The popularity of American Civil War reenactments has created a booming market for mid-1860s reproductions: uniforms and accoutrements for the gents, and dress patterns, fancy accessories and huge hoopskirts for the women. Such goods are now so easy to come by (though not always historically accurate, by any means!), that many living historians trend towards the Civil War because it is the simplest way to go.

Several volunteers are planning new gowns for our next West Texas Heritage Days. Since the fort was established in 1852, we are going to make nice day dresses in the correct style of the early to mid-fifties, an era that is under-represented. While such fashions don't appear radically different from the Civil War period, they are distinct in their becoming simplicity and lack of hoops. We also hope to create dresses from the 1870s, another of the less-common decades and an important time at Fort McKavett.

If you are interested in making up proper clothing from the 1850s or 1870s, please let me know and I'll be glad to help you find good patterns, fabrics and notions of the period. My email address is randh@nts-online.net

**Coming in the Months ahead...
Research from the Medical Records of Fort**