

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 1

January, 2008

Fort McKavett Upcoming Events

Jan 1, Fort McKavett transfer to Texas Historical Commission

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

Mar 28 & 29, 2008, Fort McKavett Education day and West Texas Heritage Day

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

May 10, Fort Mason 150th Anniversary



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

www.thc.state.tx.us



The Adventure Continues



Color Copies of all the Fort McKavett Gazette's can be found at:

www.fortmckavett.org



The Transfer is done and we are part of the Texas Historical Commission!

Look for the Welcoming Letter to our Friends Group by Larry Oaks, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission, inside this edition of the Gazette

Buddy in Austin



Left to right: Representative Larry Phillips, THC Commissioner Tom Alexander, THC Commission Chairman John Nau, Governor Rick Perry, Fort Lancaster's Chris Elliot, Fort McKavett Manager Buddy Garza, and Representative Harvey Hilderbran

Buddy travelled to Austin in December 2007 to meet with the Staff of the Texas Historical Commission and receive our State Flag from the Governor.



Friends of Fort McKavett

Our Friends of Fort McKavett group will stay the same as it was with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. We will continue to assist the site with special purchases, events, living history, and exhibits for the Site. All events and special occasions will continue to be as before and maybe even expanded. Thanks to everyone for their assistance this last year and your continuing support now!

School Group takes a tour...



Fort McKavett rancher, Jon Preston, brought his son's school class from San Angelo to Fort McKavett where they received a tour of the Post and the Government Springs



Coming Soon!!!

Once we have our new interpretive person on board, we will plan to have another docent class. This one will have quite a bit of information on the History of Fort McKavett. We will let you know as soon as it is scheduled.

Our annual "Texas Heritage Days" event is only three months away. Make your plans to attend now.

From the Archives

Things were not so smooth at the Telegraph Office...

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL-OFFICER. 125

FORT MCKAVETT, TEXAS.

[Official number, 161.]

Latitude..... 30° 48'
Longitude..... 99° 58'

Mr. C. F. Burroughs was in charge of this station from June 30, 1877, up to April 3, 1878, when he absconded, taking away the public funds and part of the public property of this station. Mr. Eugene Lane was temporarily placed in charge of this station from April 3 up to May 6, 1878, when he was ordered back to the Boerne office, having been relieved at the McKavett office by Private H. Marsh, who was in charge June 30, 1878. About forty miles of line are maintained in repair from this station.

The elevation of barometer is two thousand and fifty feet.

Station inspected November 23, 1877, by First Lieut. George S. Grimes, Second Artillery, acting signal-officer, U. S. A.

The office is convenient and well located, in post headquarters building, but the exposure of meteorological instruments is not very good. A complete set of instruments is at the station, which were in good condition at the time of inspection. No bulletins are published from office. Records have been badly kept, and were not up to date at time of inspection.

Something of interest from the Report of the Chief Signal Officer to the War Department about Fort McKavett's telegraph service in 1878



Captain Heyl wounded November, 1869

From "Report Surgical Cases, 1865 to 1871

CCCLXXVIII.—*Note concerning an Arrow-Wound of the Lumbar Region.* By REDFORD SHARPE, M. D., Acting Assistant Surgeon.

Captain E. M. Heyl, Co. M, 9th Cavalry, aged 26 years, was admitted to the post hospital at Fort McKavett, Texas, on November 28, 1869, with an arrow-wound of the left lumbar region, midway between the spine and umbilicus, received in an engagement with Lipan Indians, at the headwaters of the Llano River, Texas. The wound had a direction oblique and backward. He recovered, and returned to duty December 25, 1869.

Captain Heyl was later brevetted as Major for this action. He transferred to the 4th Cavalry under Mackenzie and took part in all the major actions the 4th were involved with. He later became a Colonel in the Inspector Generals Office and died in 1895

A welcoming message from Texas Historical Commission



Dear Friends of Fort McKavett,

The New Year brings some big changes for all of us as we begin our new relationship with staff and supporters of Fort McKavett and 17 other historic sites throughout Texas. Oversight of these historic sites has been a goal of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) for many years and we are excited about future possibilities.

The THC's mission is to make these historic attractions the best of their kind in the nation. We have put together a terrific staff and the hiring process continues. Most employees who worked at the sites under the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have chosen to remain on staff with the THC and we are pleased to have their expertise and insight.

Through its award-winning Texas Heritage Trails Program we plan to enhance and market these sites to the public, increasing both visitation hours and revenues.

With the aid of our expert architectural and archeological staff, we can assess the existing resources at these sites and develop the best possible plan for preserving and restoring them. The THC analyzes, through its multi-disciplinary approach, the needs of a historic site for years to come and incorporates that into the site's operating budget.

Fort McKavett has strong potential in areas of unfulfilled demand. This includes the sale of quality products, sellable interpretation, marketable educational programs and historical research facilities to mention just a few examples. The direction of the site will not change; rather, it will expand programs to create a broader-based interest for the future tourism market.

We look forward to working together and believe that Fort McKavett as well as all the newly acquired historic sites will benefit greatly from being incorporated into the THC's successful preservation and heritage tourism programs.

Welcome and Happy New Year!

Larry Oaks
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission

Christmas at Fort Concho



Fort McKavett Wagon at Fort Concho



Dale with visitors on the Doctors Buggy

Darcy and Cub Scouts with her spinning wheel

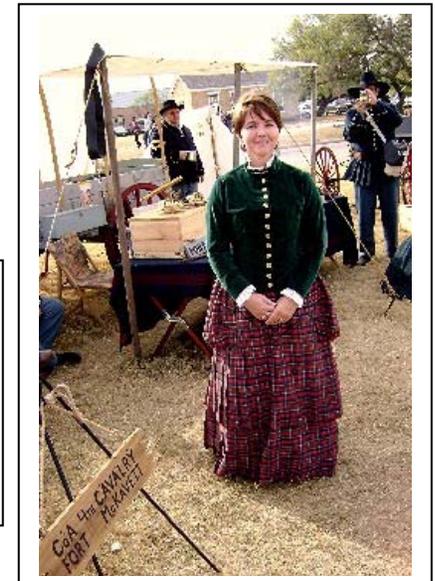


More Fort Concho



The Gang on Saturday

Right: Randy Ferris, Gennie, and Chris on Saturday. Below: Alfredo Muñoz shows his animal skins for visitors on Friday



Fort Concho drew record crowds for their event this year. We all had a good time visiting and working with the crowds. Ken Lester got outfitted with a uniform from the sutlers while he was there. This was the first time for Ken and Gennie to take part in one of our off-site living history events. We had a full crew this year and want to thank everyone that took part. The weather on Friday and Saturday was great. Of course, being Fort Concho, it was cold and wet on Sunday but still very enjoyable. Thanks to Chris and Bob for their warm welcome and help again this year.