

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 1

January, 2014

Fort McKavett Upcoming Events

January 18, Saturday, Fort
McKavett. (10:00 till 3:00),
Entertaining the Troops*
March 7-8, Fort Clark,
Education Day on Friday
March 8, Fort Concho, School of
the Ceremony
March 8, Fort Concho, Frontier
Ladies School
March 21 & 22, Fort McKavett.
West Texas Heritage Day
(Education day is Friday)*
March 29, Fort McKavett.
Spring Star Party*

*THC Historic Sites Event



Color Copies of all the Fort McKavett
Gazettes can be found at:

www.fortmckavett.org

Join us on Facebook
Friends of Fort McKavett



President's Message...

Another year gone by...And,
new projects, events, and
happenings at our favorite Post!

This coming year, we will
continue restoration of the
window frames, doorways and
other parts of the buildings on
the site that were not covered in
this last year's major restoration
project. This is very expensive to
have done, remember, we
restore, not rebuild. This means
as you look at a building or
project, you can't tell the
difference between the original
and what has been replaced.

You have most likely noticed,
Cody and Fort McKavett have
been hosting small special events
monthly at the Post. This will
continue in the coming year.
Watch for details.

Have a safe and fun new year!

John Cobb President
Friends of Fort McKavett

Christmas at Old Fort Concho



John Andrew, Violet, and John Schultz represented Fort McKavett at this year's Christmas at Old Fort Concho. For the first time, Friday was cancelled because of the cold weather and there was a late start on Saturday.



Thanks to the Schultz family for representing Fort McKavett's volunteers at this year's Fort Concho event! Those great coats came in real handy!

Fort McKavett hosts Tailor Shops and Company Tailors Event



An interactive educational program highlighted the tailor shops at Fort McKavett State Historic Site. Visitors were able to interact with living historians as they constructed and repaired mid-19th century clothing much like the original tailors of Fort McKavett did. The event was held on December 14.

Saturday, January 18th, Another interactive educational program will showcase the varied games and sundry items that the soldier stationed at Fort McKavett would have employed to keep himself entertained in his down time.

Learn the period games of Chuck-a-Luck, Mill (Nine Men's Morris), Hearts, and marbles.

Try your hand at making clay marbles or read one of the dime novels available to the soldiers through the Sutler's store. Contact Cody Mobley for more information: (325) 396-2358



“May the road be kind to you” this coming year

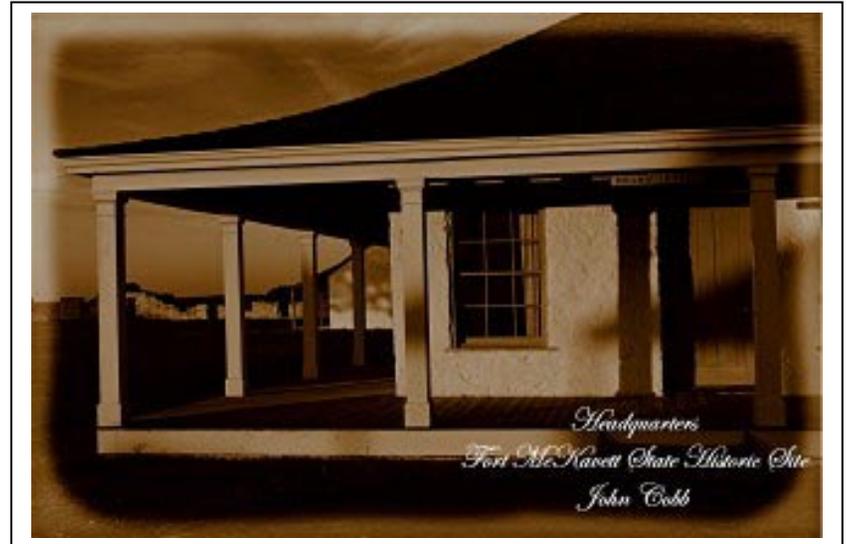
2014 Begins our 13th Year of the Fort McKavett Gazette

Did you know you can go to our Friends of Fort McKavett website and see or download all the Fort McKavett Gazette editions? Just go to: www.fortmckavett.org and follow the link on the upper left hand side.

If you are still getting a paper copy, you can help us with expenses by downloading your Gazette from the internet. We need to cut our expenses as much as possible and this will help quite a bit. The cost of printing and postage run in the neighborhood of \$0.60 each. As many copies that are sent out each month, that adds up quite a bit!

Question for our Friends

Quite a few of you are familiar with our Facebook page and the photographs that have been posted on it. I have had several requests from people to let them know when I am going to do my next photo session at Fort McKavett. If there is enough interest, we could have a session in April or May that would cover the basics of early (sunrise) morning, daytime, evening (sundown) and nighttime shooting. All you would need would be your camera, tripod, and help with food (pot luck) for the event.



We should be able to have housing for those wishing to stay overnight at the Post. We will need to clear this through THC, but before doing this, I need to know how many people would be interested.

If you are interested in this “class”, let us know at:

cobbfarm@airmail.net or contact the Post and let them know.

John Cobb
President
Friends of Fort McKavett

Bathing while stationed at Fort McKavett

From the 1857 Army Regulation Manual

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.

From the 1881 Army Regulation Manual

180. The utmost attention will be paid by commanders of companies to the cleanliness of their men, as to their persons, clothing, quarters, or tents. Where conveniences are to be had, the men should bathe once or twice a week; the feet should be washed at least twice a week. The hair will be kept short, and the beard neatly trimmed. Dirty clothes will be kept in an appropriate part of the knapsack or locker; no article of any kind will be put under the bedding.—[Regs. 1863, ¶¶ 93, 97, 100.]

While Fort McKavett had no bath-house on Post, it did have a temporary building (most likely wood) that the Post Inspectors mentioned in their reports, at the Government Springs where men were expected to bathe. When they bathed, an Officer or Sgt. had to inspect them to make sure they had.

The only building with a bath house was the Post Hospital. When the Hospital was built, it included the construction of a single story building instead of the two story planned for, using a linen closet for the bathroom instead of a separate stone bath-house, the loss of an isolation ward and surgery. Patients in the Hospital were aided in their bathing by either Hospital Stewards or Matrons.

SEC. 1357. The prisoners shall be supplied with ample and clean bedding, and with wholesome and sufficient food, but when in hospital or under discipline their diet shall be prescribed by the proper

authority. The prison shall be suitably ventilated, and each prisoner shall have a weekly bath of cold or tepid water, which shall be applied to the whole surface of the body, unless the surgeon shall direct otherwise for the health of the prisoner.

3 Mar., 1873, c. 249, s. 8, v. 17, p. 584.

Prisoners in the Guard House were also covered by bathing regulations.

From the Army Cooks Manual

BOILED PUMPKIN OR WINTER SQUASH.

Wash, pare, and cut the pumpkin or squash into pieces and remove the seeds. Soak it in cold water for two hours, then put it into a pot of boiling salt water; cover, and boil until tender throughout. When cooked drain thoroughly and mash it through a colander; season with butter, pepper, and salt. If the pumpkin or squash is too hard to be easily pared, it may be first parboiled.

BAKED WINTER SQUASH.

Small Hubbard squash is best. Saw the squash in halves; scrape out soft part and seeds; put the halves in oven and bake three-fourths of an hour, or until tender; serve in shell, helping from them.

BAKED PUMPKIN OR WINTER SQUASH.

Cut the pumpkin or squash into slices and remove the seeds. Put it into a broad, shallow baking pan, with a very little water; put it in the oven and bake with a gentle heat. It requires a long time to bake, and should be done dry. When baked, season with butter, pepper, and salt. The slices may be pared and put into the baking pan in layers.

BAKED PUMPKIN.

Cut the pumpkin in halves, then quarters; remove the seeds, but not rind; place in baking pan with the rind down, and bake in a slow oven until tender when pierced with a fork. When done serve in rind, helping it by spoonfuls, as you would mashed potatoes.

*Just in time for winter weather, have some
Army fare for cold weather!*