

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



Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 6, Number 7

July, 2007



Sept 16th -21st -“General Miles
Marching and Chowder Society”
encampment

Oct 12-13, “Fort Griffin Living
History Days”, 140th
anniversary

*Note: This is Fort Griffin’s
first event in a couple of years
plus being their 140th
anniversary. Let’s make this a
“maximum effort for
everyone” to support them!*

Dec 7-9, “Christmas at Old
Fort Concho”, San Angelo



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

www.fortmckavett.org

Meet our new Administrator!



Genevieve “Gennie” Hough
“My name is Genevieve Hough, but everyone calls me Gennie. I grew up mostly in Menard and this area. My husband is Tommy Hough and we have two children, Roy and Jamie. I’ve been a banker for the last 20 years. I’ve always loved Ft. McKavett and the outdoors in general and I’m very proud to be a part of the team at Fort McKavett State Historic Site.”

*Let’s all make Gennie feel at
home. Welcome aboard!*

Cochran County and Morton 2007



Fort McKavett's Wagon and Tents at Morton's "Last Frontier" Days



Fort Concho joined the Buffalo Soldiers and Fort McKavett this year with displays, including their Ambulance, at Morton. We had many visitors to the site, took part in the dedication of their museum at Morton, Posted the Colors at Buffalo Soldier Hill in New Mexico, and helped dedicate the new "Buffalo Soldier Heritage Trail" showing Nolan's Lost Expedition in 1877.

Our wagon is in for repairs and upgrades in Bastrop and Austin right now. Everyone should be real pleased with the way it's going to look within the next few months. Hopefully, it will be finished by Fort Griffin's Event!

4-H youth mini-camp



Fort McKavett SHS hosted a Fort McKavett 4-H youth mini-camp Monday June 18th – Tuesday, June 19th. On Monday, the children practiced with bows and arrows and BB guns. They also took a kayaking field trip and cooked their own dinner in the fire pits. After dinner, it was time to watch the sunset, make "s'mores" and set up telescopes. Ken and Lisa Lester brought one of their telescopes and helped three of the kids with their own telescopes. The Moon, Saturn, Jupiter, M13, a double star, and Ring Nebula were observed through a variety of telescopes and many pairs of eyes tracked two satellites. Tuesday, the children learned to frame and photograph nature and historical buildings. The creativity of the youth was also expressed by a variety of craft and wood working activities before they left the fort for more adventures. Donna Harbour, Heather Treadwell, and Lisa Brown were instrumental in making sure that this mini-camp was a big hit with the 4-H youth.



The Army's Biggest Problem

Habitual drunkenness disqualifies a man for military service, and is a cause for rejection in the examination of a recruit for the regular army or for an organized volunteer regiment, but does not constitute a case for exemption under the enrolment act, unless accompanied by lesions of the digestive apparatus, liver, kidney, or brain. It is not an adequate cause for discharge from service except when so long standing and so habitual as to have induced serious structural changes. Drunkenness is the principal cause of most of the military offences of which soldiers are guilty and for which they are punished, and is the source of many physical disqualifications disabling them from duty and rendering a discharge from the army ultimately necessary.

From the Manual for Enlisting and Discharging Soldiers, U.S. Army 1864

This was a large problem, even Fort McKavett had a recognized Lodge and Building of the Post (between the Bakery and Barracks No. 1). Every Regiment that came to the Post used it. There are several entries in the medical journals of Fort McKavett with the problems from excessive drinking. Scabtown did a booming business during the life of the Fort.

Meet the Men at Fort McKavett

Sir,

It is rumored that there will be some change made in the Infantry now serving with the Southern Column, Commanded by Gen. R. S. Mackenzie, on expedition against hostile Indians, if such rumor has any foundation, I would most respectfully request that Company "I." 10th Infantry may be favorably considered in the contemplated change, for the following reasons:

In the first place the Company has been on detached service nearly four months in the past year, and has marched in that time some 960 miles; during months of November, and December 1873, marching from Fort McKavett Texas to Austin Texas, and return 360 miles, guarding 25 military prisoners enroute from Fort Stockton to the Huntsville Texas penitentiary, that portion between Austin and Huntsville not counted and since the early part of August last, the Company has traveled some 600 miles with the present expedition, the last 250 of which the men had to work very hard following the Cavalry Column over the staked plains, through the deep Canyons of the Red River Country, guarding their supply train, and having to haul the wagons up steep, and rocky places by main force.

Another reason I would give for the Company being favorably considered is on account of its strength present for duty, there being at present absent from the Company 12 enlisted men, out of a total of 51, and all except 2. at Fort

McKavett, these consist of 2. Sergeants. 1 Corporal, and 9 men, leaving me here only 39 enlisted, and of the latter 2. are to be discharged in a few days, 1 Corporal, and 1 private are unfit for scouting duty, and will have to be sent to Fort Griffin, which will then leave me with but 3 Sergeants, 1 Corporal, 2 musicians and 29 men a total of 35 enlisted, for duty with the Company.

The [In] view of the forgoing I would therefore most respectfully request, that if any Infantry Company be ordered back to its station, the claims of my Company be favorably considered.

Very respectfully

Your Obt. Servant

John B. Parke

Capt. 10th Infantry Comdg.

Compy "I"



Company "I" of the 10th Infantry served at Fort McKavett from Sept '72 until May '79. They took part in several campaigns and expeditions including Mackenzie's Palo Duro Campaign.

The Texas Archaeological Society Tour



The Texas Archaeological Society held their sixth weeklong archaeological dig at the Presidio de San Saba Saturday June 9th through Saturday June 16th, 2007. Many activities were planned for the archaeologists in the afternoons and evenings. On Monday afternoon, June 18th, 59 people traveled by bus and car to visit Fort McKavett SHS. Buddy Garza gave them a tour of the fort and answered their questions. On Thursday, June 14th, the TAS youth group spent half the day at the fort. They visited the museum and dead house. Next, Buddy Garza, Alfredo Munoz, and Gennie Hough led the 35 children and their sponsors to the lime kiln and springs. The group also toured the fort and posed for a picture before ringing the school bell to signify that it was time to have a picnic lunch outside the schoolhouse. After lunch, the group piled back on their bus talking about everything they had seen and planning to cool off in the swimming hole!

TEXAS
ARCHEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY



4th of July Observance...

- In 1777, thirteen guns were fired, once at morning and again as evening fell, on July 4 in Bristol, Rhode Island. Philadelphia celebrated the first anniversary in a manner a modern American would find quite familiar: an official dinner for the Continental Congress, toasts, 13-gun salutes, speeches, prayers, music, parades, troop reviews and fireworks. Ships were decked with red, white and blue bunting.
- In 1778, General George Washington marked the Fourth of July with a double ration of rum for his soldiers and an artillery salute. Across the Atlantic Ocean, ambassadors John Adams and Benjamin Franklin held a dinner for their fellow Americans in Paris, France.
- In 1779, July 4 fell on a Sunday. The holiday was celebrated on Monday, July 5.
- In 1781, Massachusetts was the first legislature to recognize the Fourth of July.
- In 1783, Moravians in Salem, North Carolina, held the first celebration of the Fourth of July in the country with a challenging music program assembled by Johann Friedrich Peter. This work was titled the Psalm of Joy.
- In 1791 was the first recorded use of the name "Independence Day."
- In 1870, the U.S. Congress made Independence Day a holiday, albeit unpaid, for federal employees.
- In 1941, the U.S. Congress made Independence Day a federal paid holiday. The residents of Vicksburg, Mississippi, celebrated the Fourth of July for the first time in 78 years, since the Siege of Vicksburg ended with a Union victory during the American Civil War on July 4, 1863.

*Fort McKavett hopes you have a safe and
Happy 4th of July!*