

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



Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 9, Number 7

July, 2010



July 4, Independence Day
Sept 25, Comanche County Pow-
Wow, Comanche
**October 2, Texas Forts Trail
Frontier Texas, Abilene has been
cancelled**
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
December 3-5, Christmas at Old
Fort Concho, Education Day on
Friday

*THC Historic Sites Event



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

Notes from the Post...

The Month of June has been another busy month for our volunteers and staff at Fort McKavett. A special thanks to those of you who participated in various Memorial Day ceremonies.

We also want to wish Nancy Jacoby the site's administrator, a speedy recovery following her car accident. Nancy spent several days in the hospital in San Angelo and is now recovering from surgery. She hopes to be back soon.

This next month, we will have an update from Buddy and Kat on the Old Stories, New Voices tour of the Civil War battle sites. They will end up at Gettysburg in time to see this year's re-enactment.

John Cobb
President
Friends of Fort McKavett

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

www.fortmckavett.org



Fort McKavett's Headquarters Building

The headquarters-building at the post is a stone structure, 50 by 42 feet, by 10 feet high to the eaves from the floor, which is raised a little over 2 feet from the ground, situated on the eastern side of the main parade-ground. A veranda extends along the front and sides. This building contains six rooms, of nearly equal size, viz, the commanding officer's office, adjutant's office, sergeant major's and clerk's office, the post school-room, the court-martial room, and the post library the latter used at night for school for the enlisted men.

1875 Description of the Headquarters Building from the Medical Library

Dealing With Hard Water

Hard water, if hardness depends upon the presence of carbonate of lime, can be rendered soft by boiling it an hour and then allowing it to cool, when most of the lime will be precipitated.

A major problem faced with cooking at Fort McKavett, but especially when in the field, was the hard water (limestone) they had to deal with. The Army Cook's manual dealt with this by making this suggestion about hard water.

Memorial Day 2010

Fort McKavett's volunteers helped with Memorial Day ceremonies throughout the state June 1st.



McKavett volunteer Joe Gonzales attended Memorial Day ceremonies at Fort Sam Houston's National Cemetery



John Schultz and John Cobb provided coverage at the Bastrop County Museum in Bastrop



Left: Henry Crawford and Richard Vaughn at Sweetwater honoring the WASP (WWII Women Pilots). Right, Henry at Midland for their WWII Air Show on Memorial Day

Old Stories, New Voices 2010



Campers preparing to leave Fort McKavett in June

The fourth year of the Old Stories, New Voices summer camp started with campers loading up at Fort McKavett before leaving for the Prude ranch near Fort Davis. They then spent the night in Santa Fe, NM before heading for Gloretha Pass and the other Civil War sites. They will end up at Gettysburg for the 4th of July weekend reenactment before heading home!

The Friends of Fort McKavett furnished bottled water and snacks while they were on post and for the next leg of the trip.



Left: The Staff and Volunteers at Fort McKavett help this year's camper's load in their bus for the next leg of their trip. We hope to have photographs and a report on their trip next month!

The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Historic Sites will participate in the National Endowment for the Arts' (NEA) Blue Star Museums program that allows *active military personnel* and their families free admission to museums and historic sites across the U.S. The program began on Memorial Day and will continue through Labor Day (Sept. 6).



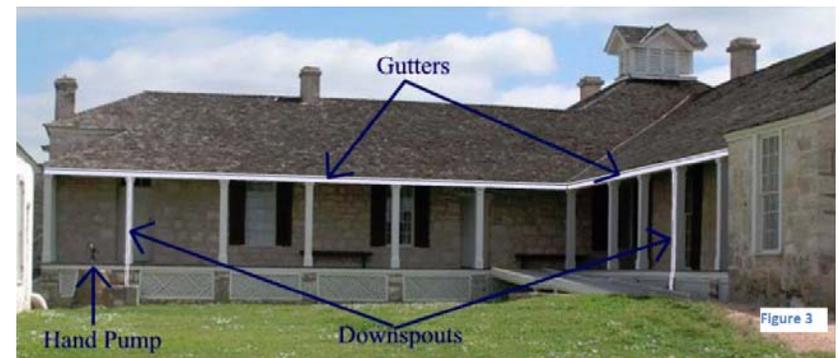
ROLL-CALLS.

513. There shall be daily at least three roll-calls, viz, at *reveille*, *retreat*, and *tattoo*. They will be made on the company parades by the 1st Sergeants, *superintended by a commissioned officer* of the company.—[*Regs.* 1863, ¶ 234.]

514. At all established roll-calls, except dress-parade, after the companies are dismissed, each officer superintending the company roll-call reports, to the Adjutant or other officer designated, the result of the roll-call; the Adjutant or officer designated reports the result of the roll-call to the commanding officer.—[¶ 814 *Auth. Inf. Tactics.*]

515. Immediately after *reveille* roll-call (after stable-duty in the Cavalry), the tents or quarters, and the space around them, will be put in order by the men of the companies, superintended by the chiefs of squads, and the guard-house or guard-tent by the guard or prisoners.—[*Regs.* 1863, ¶ 235.]

Roll Calls, from the 1877 Army Regulations



Rainwater Harvesting System

The Friends of Fort McKavett has received permission to install the new rainwater harvesting system for the hospital. We are working on the bids from contractors at this time and will keep everyone informed as soon as construction starts. This will be a great teaching tool for the site as well as help with drainage and the preservation of the building. More to come on this!

Boy Scouts Learn Archeology



Boy Scouts from Sol Mayer boy scout ranch learned the basics of archeology during a sponsored dig behind the post office (on private property, not state grounds). Fledgling “Indiana Jones” scouts learned how to work in a grid, document their finds, and inventory the artifacts they found. Staff members from Fort McKavett helped with this project.



1869 Event Held at Fort McKavett



The Texas Rifle's Living History Association held a living history event at the fort over Memorial Day weekend. There were roughly forty participants, including staff member Cody Mobley and two Fort McKavett volunteers: Jacqui Begnaud and Ryan Johnson. The three McKavett representatives squatted in the ruins of Barracks 1 and provided some shade and a card game to any of the soldiers wanting to lose their monthly pay quickly. The event was well attended by the public, despite the warm temperatures. The participants demonstrated for the public the everyday happenings of the soldiers at Ft. McKavett, including: military drill, guard mount, work details, and cooking. This is the second such living history the Texas Rifles have had at Ft. McKavett, and we hope to see them again soon.

