

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 6

June, 2007



Jun 9, Fort McKavett
Volunteer Fire Department
Fundraiser

Jun 9-16 Texas Amateur Arch
logical Dig at Presidio San Saba
in Menard

Jun 23-24, Last Frontier
Heritage Celebration, Morton

Sept 16-21, The General Miles
Marching and Chowder Society
encampment at Fort McKavett

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

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



HB 12 has passed both Houses

House Bill 12, the funding bill for Texas State Parks and Historic Sites has passed and is on the way to the Governor's Office for signature to become law.

Parks will be getting major funding increases and funding over the next two years. It will be up to a joint House and Senate Committee to study and decide if full funding (100% of the Sporting Goods Tax) will be voted on this next session (2009).

Of immediate concern is the transfer of 18 Historic Sites from Texas Parks and Wildlife to the Texas Historical Commission by January 1, 2008. This includes Fort McKavett State Historic Site.

As we learn of the details, we will let everyone know.

To Fort McKavett, From Afghanistan



TEXANS IN AFGHANISTAN, 2006 (FPMCKAVETT ABOARD--by adoption!)
 r. PVT A Salinas, Sinton TX; SSG Steven Lammie, Palmont, TX; CPT JAMES HALLMARK, Crockett/Nacogdoches, TX (TEXHIST Professor, Panola College)
 P/O Arturo Morales, San Antonio TX; MSO Brian Cobb, El Paso TX; SSG D. Giboney, Dallas TX; USAF Maj. Robert Reindel, Waco, TX (event not pictured)
 d. Ft. McKavett STAFF
 THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO & SUPPORTING ME ON MY DEPLOYMENT & ACCOMMODATING MY TX CLASS ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.
 We always enjoy coming here and my students always list it as one of the best sites visited. JAMES HALLMARK, PAVE

Thanks to James Hallmark

James is a Captain in the US Army Reserves. He recently served a 6 month tour in Afghanistan where this picture was taken. James is a professor of history at Panola College in East Texas. Twice a year he brings his students to Fort McKavett as a part of his Traveling Texas History course.



Texas State Railroad State Park had their last event as a State Park in May. Bob Poinsett led the Fort McKavett delegation to this year's event. The Railroad Park is being turned over to Private Ownership in the next few months.

June 15th, 1883

12:00 Noon

The flag came down on Fort McKavett as a Post of the United State Army. This was 124 years ago. The medical supplies and records were transferred to Fort Concho. The Post Library was transferred to Fort Davis. Fort Davis also got the Post Windmills, beds, and enlisted men's floor chests (foot chests). Fort McKavett the town came into existence at 1:00 PM that day and was a town until around 1973. Our State Historic Site began then and has been run by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department since then. We are soon to bring that flag down and our new future will be with the Texas Historical Commission. Our future looks bright and we will let you know the details as soon as we have them confirmed. Our Rangers will stay in place and our budget will go up anywhere from two to three times what it has been. All of our programs, Friends Groups, and exhibits will not only stay, but will be expanded. The Historical Commission will bring in more advertising for Fort McKavett and will make a good partner with our Post Library and Research Center. Let us all work together to make this transition as smooth as possible. The transfer can take place anytime between now and January 1st, 2008. Every member of the House and every Senator voted for this change.

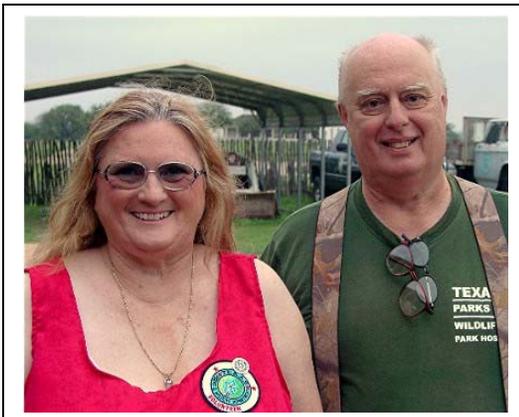


Some Major Restoration Work at Fort McKavett



Left: Ranger Ken Lester working on one of the headers for Officers Quarters No. 3. The windows were literally falling out and had to be rebuilt and fitted to the building.

Right: Alfredo Munoz with one of the headers for the window frames that had to be cut and chiseled to match the 150 plus year old building. Keep in mind we restore, not rebuild. We put it back like it was!



Park Hosts Glen and Terry have come back to help us through most of the summer again. They will leave in August. Terry made the curtains for all the buildings last year. They make quite a team with Terry working in the Visitors Center while Glen works with maintenance projects and gives tours.

Meet the People at McKavett

One of the more interesting characters who were assigned to Fort McKavett was a Civil War Veteran, 2nd Lt. Henry B. Chamberlain. Like so many families who served in the Western Frontier Army, his story is a mixture of joy and sadness, of having taken part in the Civil War, the opening of the West, and suffering the boredom of Frontier Post duty.

Chamberlain had been a *U.S. Marine* before the Civil War, rising to the rank of Sergeant. While in the Marine Corps, he served during a Cruise with the Pacific Squadron, before the end of his tour of duty in September, 1859 when he received an Honorable Discharge.

When the war started, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, took part in several battles, was captured at Gettysburg, escaped Libby Prison and rejoined his Regiment.

After the War ended, Chamberlain was assigned in July 1865 as a 2nd Lt. in the 108th U.S. Colored Troops. He was promoted to 1st Lt. in January 1866. He received a Regular Army Commission in June 18, 1867 as a 2nd Lt. and was stationed with the 26th Infantry in Texas. May 19th, 1869 he was transferred to the 10th Infantry when the 26th and 10th Infantry Regiments were combined under the reorganization of the Army. The 10th Infantry patrolled the border with Mexico until they were relieved and sent to Stations on the Texas Frontier in 1872.



He served at McKavett with the 10th Infantry and helped Greely put in the first telegraph line from San Antonio to Fort McKavett. He had contracted tuberculosis and was sent to quarters in 1877. His wife gave birth to a son three months later and the Army sent him home to Fairfield, Connecticut, in April 1877, where he died on June 20, 1877.

Henry B. Chamberlain

General
Miles
Marching
&
Chowder
Society



An Organization of Indian Wars Enthusiasts

The General Miles Marching and Chowder Society

Will hold their annual Indian War encampment at Fort McKavett September 16th-21st, 2007.

The General Miles Marching and Chowder Society is dedicated to the study and interpretation of the Indian Wars from the viewpoint of the private soldier.

They have a yearly encampment at some historically significant site from the Indian Wars. This year, Fort McKavett and its rich history will be explored.

This event will be for the membership only; however, if you are interested, you can contact them about joining their group by contacting Michael L. Vice at michaelvice_16@msn.com

Travels with Fort McKavett in May



Fort McKavett was represented at Fort Chadborne in May by Alfredo Munoz and Richard Vaughan.



Luis Padilla showing Buffalo Soldier Exhibits at Mission Tejas State Historic Site in East Texas. Also in attendance were John Cobb and Bob Poinsett.

May 19, 2007, Fort McKavett's Research Center and Library was represented by John Cobb, Horace Williams and Ken Pollard at Camp Mabry's Military Forces Museum in Austin. Indian Wars and Buffalo Soldier research was presented to visitors to the Camp. This was part of the Armed Forces Day Celebration at the Headquarters of the Texas National Guard.

