

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



Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

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June 28-29, Texas' Last Frontier Heritage Celebration, Morton

July 20-26 Old Stories, New Voices- Fort McKavett

Oct 10-12, Fort Griffin Days, Fort Griffin. Education Day on Friday the 10th

Oct 25, Friends of Fort McKavett Meeting and Star Party

Dec 5-7, Christmas at Old Fort Concho, San Angelo. Education day on Friday the 5th

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

www.fortmckavett.org

A new interactive map of Fort McKavett is now available on the website (see above link).



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

www.thc.state.tx.us

Old Stories, New Voices

The 2008 version of OSNV will take place in July. More information will be in next month's Gazette. This year's camp will be the first of a three year series of camps. Two will be held at Fort McKavett and the last one will visit major battle sites of the Civil War. This is part of a grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Buddy Garza attended the Texas Historical Commission's Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi. He gave a Power Point Presentation on the Historic Commission's Forts and what they have to offer visitors.



McKavett at Doan's Crossing



Fort McKavett joined Texas Historical Commission, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Wilbarger County Historical Commission in a joint living history project at Doan's Crossing on the Red River (North of Vernon, Texas). Fort McKavett, Fort Griffin, and the Texas Buffalo Soldiers had exhibits with about 500 visitors to the site.



Left: Doan's Store shown in the 1940's. The building was built out of adobe bricks. Today, it is covered with a stucco wall with glass showing the original building.

Doan's Crossing was not only used by most of the Cattle Trails going to Kansas, but was a major crossing for the Army during the Indian Wars. It had one of the few crossings with little or no quicksand and it could hold the weight of the Army Wagons.



From the Archives

Thanks to Henry Crawford at Texas Tech, we have the 1870 Regimental Ordinance Returns for the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments. The 9th Cavalry had Company "F" and Company "M" on station at Fort McKavett.

From these records, we find that Company "F" had 80 Spencer Carbines, 74 Remington .44 Pistols (percussion) and 80 Light Sabers assigned.

Company "M" had 76 Spencer Carbines, one that was not serviceable, 75 Remington Pistols, and 84 Light Sabers.



Upper Left: the .56 Cal Spencer Carbine, upper right: 1861 Remington Pistol, left: 1861 Light Cavalry Saber

Scientific Explorations at Fort McKavett



Dr. Samuel Wylie Crawford filed this report with the Department of the Army on his 1855 search for fossils in the Fort McKavett area. His report went on to state they had not dug very far, but they had found mostly sea animals, such as ammonites and sea shells. Later expeditions found much more.

1. The ammonites obtusus (most abundant); 2. The ammonites nodosus; 3. The belemnites mucronatus; 4. The flagiostoma spinosum; 5. The hamites intermedius; 6. The gryphaea incurva, of the oolite system; 7. Many species of productae; 8. Inoceramus vetustus, of the mountain limestone; 9. Spirula; 10. Hamites, surillites; 11. Retepose. There are, also, immense numbers of other shells of different species.

Dr. Crawford's report shows these fossils found in 1853-55

Meet the Staff



Russell Tipton

Russell was born and raised in Menard, Texas. He graduated from Menard High School in 1986. Russell served in the U.S Army as a Cavalry Scout for ten years. Base assignments were: basic training at Fort Knox, Ky; 3/12 Cavalry Buhdigen, Germany; 2/7 Cavalry Fort Carson, Co; 4th Combat Aviation Brigade Fort Carson, Co; 5/17 Cavalry 2nd Infantry Division Camp Pelham, Korea. After leaving the army, he worked as a Correctional Counselor for Corrections Corporations of America for ten years. He is a member of the National Eagle Scout Association. Russell and his son Samuel enjoy hunting and fishing in the area surrounding Menard. He likes to tour Texas on his motorcycle.

Fort Mason

Alfredo and Jay attended this year's Fort Mason event. There was a parade, living history camp, and the First Cavalry's Mounted show. This was a one day event.



1881 U.S. Army Officers Pay Scale and the Pay of Retired Officers

Pay of Officers of the United States Army.

GRADE	PAY OF OFFICERS IN ACTIVE SERVICE.					
	YEARLY PAY.	MONTHLY PAY.				
		Prior to 5 Years' Service.	5 Years' Service.	10 Years' Service.	15 Years' Service.	20 Years' Service.
		10 per ct.	20 per ct.	30 per ct.	40 per ct.	
General.....	\$13,500.00	\$1125.00	.....	.....	.....
Lieutenant-general	11,000.00	916.67	.....	.....	.....
Major-general.....	7,500.00	625.00	.....	.....	.....
Brigadier-general.....	5,500.00	458.33	.....	.....	.....
Colonel.....	3,500.00	291.67	\$320.83	\$350.00	\$375.00	*\$375.00
Lieutenant-colonel.....	3,000.00	250.00	275.00	300.00	325.00	†333.33
Major	2,500.00	208.33	229.17	250.00	270.83	291.67
Captain, mounted.....	2,000.00	166.67	183.33	200.00	216.67	233.33
Captain, not mounted.....	1,800.00	150.00	165.00	180.00	195.00	210.00
Regimental adjutant.....	1,800.00	150.00	165.00	180.00	195.00	210.00
Regimental quartermaster	1,800.00	150.00	165.00	180.00	195.00	210.00
First lieutenant, mounted.....	1,600.00	133.33	146.67	160.00	173.33	186.67
First lieutenant, not mounted....	1,500.00	125.00	137.50	150.00	162.50	175.00
Second lieutenant, mounted.....	1,500.00	125.00	137.50	150.00	162.50	175.00
Second lieutenant, not mounted....	1,400.00	116.67	128.33	140.00	151.67	163.33
Chaplain.....	1,500.00	125.00	137.50	150.00	162.50	175.00

GRADE	PAY OF RETIRED OFFICERS.					
	YEARLY PAY.	MONTHLY PAY.				
		Prior to 5 Years' Service.	5 Years' Service.	10 Years' Service.	15 Years' Service.	20 Years' Service.
General.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lieutenant-general .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Major-general.....	\$625.00	\$468.75	.....	.....	.....
Brigadier-general.....	4125.00	343.75	.....	.....	.....
Colonel	2625.00	218.75	\$240.62	\$262.50	\$281.25	\$281.25
Lieutenant-colonel	2250.00	187.50	206.25	225.00	243.75	250.00
Major.....	1875.00	156.25	171.87	187.50	203.12	218.75
Captain, mounted.....	1500.00	125.00	137.50	150.00	162.50	175.00
Captain, not mounted.....	1350.00	112.50	123.75	135.00	146.25	157.50
Regimental adjutant .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Regimental quartermaster .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
First lieutenant, mounted.....	1200.00	100.00	110.00	120.00	130.00	140.00
First lieutenant, not mounted....	1125.00	93.75	103.12	112.50	121.87	131.25
Second lieutenant, mounted.....	1125.00	93.75	103.12	112.50	121.87	131.25
Second lieutenant, not mounted....	1050.00	87.50	96.25	105.00	113.75	122.50
Chaplain.....	1350.00	112.50	123.75	135.00	146.25	157.50

* The maximum pay of a colonel is by law \$4500 per annum; hence full 40 per cent. cannot accrue.
 † The maximum pay of a lieutenant-colonel is by law \$4000 per annum; hence full 40 per cent. cannot accrue.

Although not much by today's money, in the 1880's, this was a very "tidy" sum for every grade. Note how the Chaplain is paid the same as a Captain of Infantry in the Retired Officer's pay. It should be noted, very few private industry companies paid retirement before the 1900's

Fort Chadbourne



Fort Chadbourne celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Butterfield Stage Route at this year's event. Over 1,100 students were on hand on education day. Fort McKavett had a good crew on hand for this event.

Above: Richard and Cindy Vaughn, Right: Jay, Russell, and Alfredo represented the Staff from Fort McKavett. There were visitors on both Friday and Saturday.



Fort Chadbourne's Barracks (below)

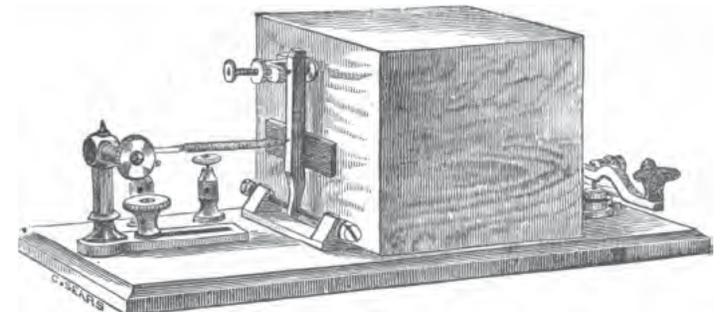


Telegraphic Line Repairs at Fort McKavett

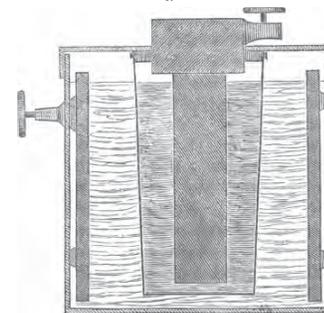
The telegraph lines between Fort McKavett and Fort Concho and between Fort McKavett and Department Headquarters in San Antonio demanded constant repair and maintenance to keep them in operation. In our Fort McKavett, "Special Orders", there are numerous entries about sending out repair parties to check and repair the lines.

To check their work, they carried special equipment into the field to establish contact with the Post as they worked on problems.

The equipment consisted of a combination "sounder" and "Morse Key". The "sounder" allowed them to hear the key from the other end of the wire and the "Morse Key" allowed them to send messages. According to the 1872 and 1874 Signal Corps Manuals, the equipment below are the Field Sets which were used during repairs.



Combination Sounder and Field Key for use in repairs and where telegraph lines were available when away from the Post.



Cross Section of a Field Battery carried on the repair wagon. The battery consisted of lead and sulfuric acid. This unit provided the power needed to operate the key and "sounder" for the repair detail to communicate back to the Post when they were attempting to repair the lines.