

Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 8, Number 6 June, 2009

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

Fort McKavett Upcoming Events

- June 27-28, Morton, Last Frontier Days*
- October 9-19, Fort Griffin Living History Days*
- October 17, Fort Stockton 150th Anniversary*
- October 17, Star Party at Fort McKavett*
- October 17, Friends of Fort McKavett Annual Meeting*
- December 4-6, Christmas at Old Fort Concho*

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

www.fortmckavett.org



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

A Quick Note:

Fort McKavett’s busy schedule has not let up this month. We have had events, special days, the Legislature in session, and we are asking the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) to use the southern route for their new power lines from West Texas wind turbines instead of running it within sight of our Historic Site. We are aiding the Texas Historical Commission on this one. As for the Legislature, there are still a couple of days to go, but it looks like our funding will be close to what we have had.

We should hear something shortly on both of these issues and will be able to report them to you in our July Gazette.

Everyone have a safe and productive June. We will see you on the trail.

John E Cobb
President
Friends of Fort McKavett

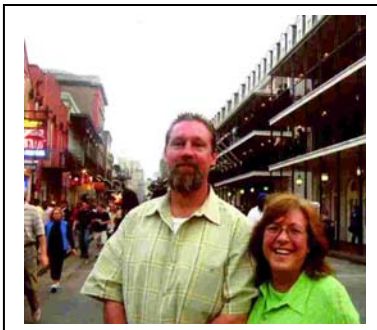
Patriotic Flag Gift to Fort McKavett



VFW Post 4443 in Austin has donated a 15'x23' U.S. Flag to the fort. According to Post Commander Bennie Ellis, the flag was donated in memory of the veterans that have served their country and VFW Post 4443. The fort will proudly fly this flag to commemorate special events in our country's history, like the Fourth of July, Veterans Day, and Memorial Day.

VFW Post 4443 contacted Texas Parks and Wildlife, who in turn contacted the Texas Historical Commission about this gift.

We would like to thank everyone involved with this wonderful act of patriotism.



Cheryl and Mike Donovan of Tyler, Texas recently visited Bourbon Street in New Orleans for a three day vacation. They were the ultimate recipients of the weekend stay at a New Orleans Bed and Breakfast donated by Helen Baffes for the Friends of Fort McKavett silent auction held last October.

Historic Sites Free Day



The Staff and Volunteers at Fort McKavett were joined by Commissioner Tom Alexander during our Historic Sites Free Day in May. Visitors to the site were given guided tours of the post.



Above: Everyone stops for a meal in the breezeway of the Hospital at Fort McKavett. Right: Staff and Volunteers who gave guided tours to visitors to the site.



Headquarters Fifth Military District,
Austin, March 13th 1869.

Commanding Officer
Post of Fort McKavett, Texas.

Sir:—I am directed by the Commanding General to request you to procure from the Sheriff of Menard Co. a report showing what provision (in the absence of the county jail) is made for the confinement of Prisoners in his county.
A blank form is herewith enclosed.

Very respectfully, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Louis T. Gaxiere
First Lieut. 11th Infantry, U. S. A.,
Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

(1 Enclosure.)

In this letter received at Fort McKavett, Menard County, Texas had no jail. Prisoners were confined in the Guardhouse at Fort McKavett until a jail could be built in Menardville (now Menard). The reports were required because of Reconstruction.

Fort Chadbourne Event...



Fort McKavett Volunteers at Fort Chadbourne's Living History Event in May.



Upper Left: Ladies at Fort Chadbourne. There were several exhibits including Laundress and Wives displays.

Lower Left: John Cobb shown with some of the Fort McKavett exhibits.



We had several exhibits showing 1850s, 1860s, 1870s, and the 1880s history of Fort McKavett. In spite of the rain and the last minute canceling of school groups because of the flu scare, it was a very good event. Thanks to Garland and his crew for a wonderful event!

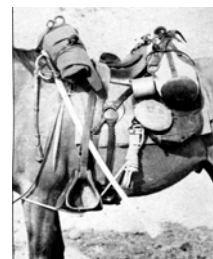
Fort McKavett at the Texas State Railroad Event



Fort McKavett's Display at the Texas State Railroad in Palestine, Texas in May, 2009



Left: The Doctor's Buggy exhibit from Fort McKavett was a big hit. It rained off and on during the event, but the turnout was great.



**Cavalry Horse Equipment shown. Left: Near Side
Right: Off Side
General Orders #73
Adjutant Generals Office**



McKavett Post Trader Restrictions March 8, 1877

Headquarters Post McKavett, Texas,
March 8, 1877.

General Order,
No. 10.

The following orders being considered necessary for the discipline and welfare of the Post, are called to the attention of all concerned, viz:-

- I. The Post Trader's store and club room shall be closed on Sunday, to all except the Post Trader and his employes, and those persons who take their meals there.
- II. Gambling is positively prohibited at any time in any part of the Post Trader's building.
- III. No ardent spirits shall be sold by the bottle, or in any larger quantity than a single drink, in any authorized way, unless by written permission of his Company Commander, counter-signed by the Post Commander, nor shall any liquor at all be sold to any intoxicated citizen or soldier.
- IV. The Post Trader shall be held responsible for any infraction or violation of the above orders.

In order of Colonel H. R. Clitz:
Assistant Adjutant
10th Infy, 10th Infantry
Post Adjutant.

In these General Orders (No. 10) in March, 1877, there were restrictions placed on the Post Trader's store at Fort McKavett. The store was to be closed on Sundays, no gambling was allowed in the back of the store, and drinks were restricted to soldiers. The Post Trader was held responsible for these orders and could lose his Post License if he did not follow them.

It was ordered by Col. Clitz of the 10th Infantry, Commanding the Post.



Rations in the Field...

When ordered for field service, and rations have been drawn, the first care must be to pack everything with the greatest possible care. Each side of bacon or piece of meat should be wrapped in several sacks. Coffee, sugar, salt, beans, rice, etc., except that which is carried in the ration box, should be double sacked.

Matches should be kept in closed tin boxes, or in wide-mouth bottles, and well corked, so that no dampness can reach them.

Candles should be wrapped up and placed in a candle box, or in a compartment of the mess box, to prevent their being broken.

Cases containing pepper and yeast powder should be opened and the contents carefully repacked with hay or straw, so as to prevent the cans from being shaken open and their contents spilled. Flour and vegetables should be double sacked and sacks securely sewed or tied. Boxes of hard bread require no special attention.

One full day's ration of soft bread and fresh meat should be drawn for the first day's march; also a proportion of one-fifth or more of hard bread, to meet the contingencies of wet weather or lack of fuel for baking purposes.

From the Manual for Cooks

WHEAT MUFFINS.

3 cups sifted flour.	2 cups milk.
1 egg, well beaten.	1 tablespoonful sugar.
$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoonful salt.	3 teaspoonfuls baking powder.

Into the sifted flour mix the baking powder, salt, and sugar; add the egg and milk enough to make a thick batter.

Drop the mixture into greased muffin rings and bake.

Also from the Manual for Cooks, a recipe for Wheat Muffins