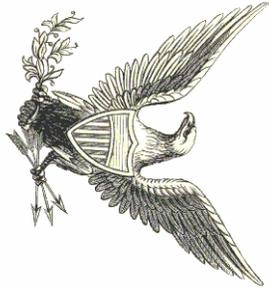


**West Texas Heritage Days
March 22, 2003**



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



Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 2, Number 3

March, 2003

West Texas Heritage Day March 22, 2003

This year looks to be our biggest and best Living History Day yet. We have several new groups that will be coming to the Fort for the first time. This includes Infantry and Artillery.

We will have Sutlers available for you to be able to purchase those hard to find items. These will include camp furniture, uniforms, and all the little items we all want.

Buddy has planned out the meals and as usual, they will be spectacular.

Registration will be handled a little differently this year, we have new paperwork from TPWD that everyone will have to fill out, but we plan to make it as painless as possible.

*Do you have something
for the newsletter? Contact
Gabe at the Post and get it
added!*

The Weather in March 1873

From the Medical Archives, we can find Dr. Horton recorded the weather for March 1873 had the highest temperature on the 11th. It was a high of 89F and a low of 60F. The coldest day was recorded on the 25th with a low of 25F and a high of 47F.

*Volunteers will be needed
during the event with tours,
help with cooking, cleaning,
manning exhibits, the check in
station, assisting with setup,
and general labor. Check in
with Gabe or Buddy when
you get on Post. We will need
your help!*

**Fort McKavett
State Historic Site**

 **PARKS & HISTORIC SITES**

A School for Area Children

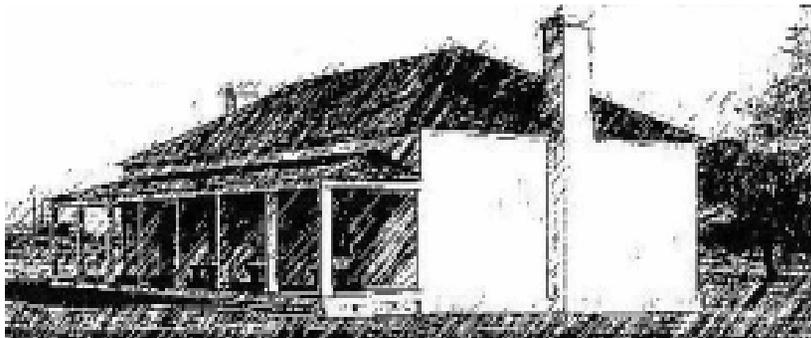
Post School:

In accordance with G.O. 24. 4. 0. Washington D.C. May 18th 1878, a post school was established November 5th 1878, in the stone school building at the post. A non-commissioned officer is detailed as teacher. The school during the month has been well and regularly attended by officers, landwrens & civilian children. The school is well provided with furniture and is quite an institution among the young folks.

Although the present school house had been used at the Post since 1874, it was for the use of Military Personnel only. In May 1878, the War Department set aside the use of the school buildings at Frontier Posts for the education of Children, not only on the Post, but also those in the area.

A noncommissioned officer was appointed "Teacher". The first classes for "young folks" was started on November 5, 1878. He was paid an extra \$0.35 per day.

Our Schoolhouse at Fort McKavett was used continually from then until 1951 when the Children were sent to the Menard Independent School System, 23 miles away



From the Archives

During the month a dial has been placed in the ceiling of the main hall of the administration building communicating with the weather vane on top of the building and indicating the direction of the wind, and very promptly any changes. This is another evidence of the ingenuity of Hospital Steward F. W. O. H. of U.S. Army.

Dr. Goddard
Surgeon U.S. Army,
Post Surgeon.



The Hospital
Weather vane in the
Archives of Fort
McKavett State
Historical Site

A report from the Medical Records in August, 1877 shows that there was a weather vane on the hospital administration building. It had an indicator (a large iron ring with the direction painted on it with a pointer showing the direction of the vane) inside the building to show the direction of the wind where the Doctor recording the weather for the day didn't have to go outside. The Hospital Steward F. Worth, U.S. Army was praised by Dr. Goddard for his "ingenuity" in making this device. The Dr. had to record the weather daily.

We have this Weather Vane in storage with the archives at Fort McKavett. Wouldn't it be something to have it reinstalled and in working order.

At this time, there are no plans for it to be put on the building

List of Pre Civil War Names of Soldiers who had died at Fort McKavett

Date	Name	Regiment
3/31/52	Christian Weaver, PVT	8 th Inf.
8/26/52	Francis Christopher	8 th Inf.
9/13/52	Washington P. Street, 1 st Lt.	8 th Inf.
12/2/52	John Palmer, PVT	8 th Inf.
1/21/53	David McKee, PVT	8 th Inf.
1/22/53	Patrick Fitzsimmons, PVT	8 th Inf.
3/1/53	James Willet, PVT	8 th Inf.
4/26/53	Ernst Klinger, Recruit	Unassigned
7/4/53	William Morris, PVT	8 th Inf.
10/6/53	George McCabe, PVT	1 st Inf.
10/10/53	Henry Collin, PVT	8 th Inf.
7/31/55	Jakob Wolf, PVT	2 nd Dragoons
8/4/55	Edward Burne, PVT	1 st Inf.
8/30/55	Albert Eppler, PVT	1 st Inf.
10/7/55	John Cotter, PVT	1 st Inf.
10/26/55	John D. McCall, 2 nd Lt.	1 st Inf.
1/23/56	Richard Young, PVT	1 st Inf.
4/26/56	Louis Bauer, PVT	1 st Inf.
7/27/56	Peter Thornton, PVT	1 st Inf.
1/27/57	Daniel Herne, PVT	1 st Inf.
1/12/58	Myron H. Clark, PVT	1 st Inf.
12/31/58	Michael Meagher, PVT	1 st Inf.

Progress is being made on the naming of our missing soldiers and the honoring these people with the proper headstones and a Historical Plaque. Ephraim Dickson is helping us with these names as well. Col. McTaggart is heading up the fight by meeting with the VA and the army about the headstones. All we need is the proper identification. We have made some strides in this as you can tell from the above list. John Cobb and Gabe Schooley are working on the presentation to the Historical Commission. We hope to get this off in the mail very soon.

We have already had a meeting on site about this and have received the paperwork to submit to the Texas Historical Commission. Special thanks need to go to Frederica Wyatt, the Kimble County Historian for her assistance with this project. She has given us help and advice on how to proceed. We will keep you informed!!!

Battleship Texas and the “USS Maine Memorial”

Fort McKavett was represented at the Battleship Texas Event in February again this year. Because of the wet and windy weather, all the displays were on board the Ship under cover.

We had an Officer’s display showing the Field Desk, Field Kit, Signal Corps Display, a Power Point Presentation of Fort McKavett in the Officers Galley, and a dog tent set up on the Main Deck.

We gave out several hundred of the Walking Tour brochures. As usual, there was a lot of interest in the Post and in our upcoming “West Texas Heritage Days” event.





Report from our Star Gazers

By Lisa Lester

The Johnson Space Center Astronomical Society (JSCAS) will hold their Semi-Annual Fort McKavett Star Party Thursday, March 27 – Sunday, March 30th. Club members will begin arriving on Thursday afternoon and after setting up their equipment they will have a night of viewing the skies. Some members of the club will travel to Brady Friday afternoon to give astronomy presentations to the elementary students. Friday night will be another night of observing by club members. Many members are going to try to observe all 110 Messier objects during this trip! Saturday will find club members rising in time for Buddy's famous BBQ! Talks and presentations will be given to the public in the school house during the late afternoon. In the evening, JSCAS, will host a public star party dedicated to the memory of Astronaut Dave Brown who was a member of the club and a Friend of Fort McKavett. On Sunday, JSCAS members will pack up and head home. As they drive away their thoughts will keep drifting back to the fort and to a time when they will be able to return to the prettiest fort in Texas.

Upcoming Events



March 22-23, Fort McKavett "Living History Days"

March 27-30, Fort McKavett "JSCAS Star Party"

May 17-18, Texas State Railroad Living History Timeline

May 16-17, 2nd Annual Living History Days, Fort Chadbourne

July 4-5-6, Guided Tours and Living History at Fort McKavett

December 5-7, Christmas at Fort Concho



1st U.S. Infantry Cleans up the Powder Magazine

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hayden gave us permission to clean up and make the Powder Magazine stable. It was in very poor shape and could not be seen unless you were just a few feet from it.

The 1st U.S. Infantry had their muster at Fort McKavett in February this year and took on this task. Using only vintage tools, they cleared the magazine, the approach on top of the hill and the old government road leading to it. They did a super job and deserve a enormous round of applause from the rest of us.

In another couple of years, this set of ruins would have been lost forever because of the brush growth. Special tours will be given of this project before and after our event in March.



Part of the crew in front of the Powder Magazine. The road is now cleared for access as well.