

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



# Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

**Volume 10, Number 3**

**March, 2011**

## Fort McKavett Upcoming Events

March 4-5, Fort Clark  
March 11-13, School of the Victorian Lady,  
Fort Concho  
March 25-26, Fort McKavett, West Texas  
Heritage Days. \*  
April 2, Fort McKavett Spring Star Party\*  
April 2, Old West Rendezvous Event, San  
Marcos  
April 8-9, Fort Richardson Living History  
Days  
April 15-16, Civil War Living History &  
Reenactment. Confederate Reunion  
Grounds\*  
May 6-7, Fort Chadbourne Days Living  
History  
May 13-14, Lake Arrowhead State Park  
Open House  
May 13-14, Texas Forts Muster, Fort Worth  
May 20-21, Fort Lancaster, Western Frontier  
Days\*  
May 27- 29, Texas State Railroad, Palestine  
June 24-26, Last Frontier Days, Morton  
Oct 7-8, Fort Griffin Living History Days\*  
Oct 15, Fort Day at Fort Stockton

\*THC Historic Sites Event

## Notes from the Fort

This has been a very interesting session of the state legislature. At this point, although THC will be hit hard with the loss of funding, it looks like the Historic Sites division may be in pretty good shape. As the session continues, we will learn more and we will keep you updated. For now, everything is pretty well “business as usual” at least until the end of September.

In other news, our yearly “West Texas Heritage Days” is set for March 25-26. We need to continue to show the public our high level of service during these lean times. We really need for our Friend’s group to help out by volunteering their time in the serving line and baking desserts. Check with Cody Mobley if you would like to help.

**Hope to see everyone there!**

**John Cobb,  
President  
Friends of Fort McKavett**



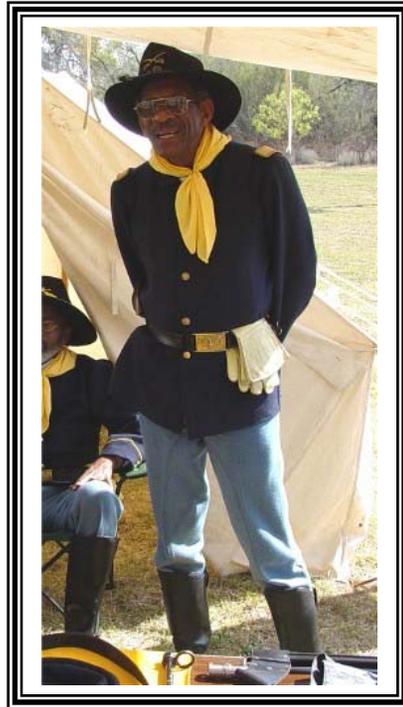
## In Memory of our Friend

### Earley B. Teal

Fort McKavett supporter and co-founder of the San Antonio Chapter of the Texas Buffalo Soldiers passed away on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

Earley came to several of our events plus helped with the Old Stories, New Voices programs at Fort McKavett over the years.

Earley, who retired from the Air Force, was an Air Force civilian counselor. He has served on many boards and committees. He helped institute an annual Veterans Day observance at the San Antonio National Cemetery to recognize soldiers who died to build this country



### Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry Commanding the Post March 1875



Henry B. Clitz served as commanding officer of Fort McKavett longer than any other during the life of the post. He was commander between 1873 and 1879 except when he was on leave or on campaigns. He retired after he left McKavett and apparently drowned in 1888, but his body was never recovered.

### Cyclist Enjoy the Post



*Cyclist from Austin toured the area around Fort McKavett and the Presidio on Sunday, January 30th. The weather was perfect for cycling. Fort McKavett is a great waypoint for cyclist on their journey through the back roads of Texas.*

### Deep Freeze Hits Fort McKavett



*The San Saba River at Fort McKavett froze over during the February deep freeze. That is a very rare occurrence. In looking back over the army records, I have not found anything that mentions it ever happening when the fort was occupied.*

# Happy 88<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Col. Richard R. McTaggart



Colonel McTaggart, Friends of Fort McKavett President Emeritus celebrated his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday on Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. The Colonel has been involved with the post since he was a small child. He was the first president of the Friends Group and helped establish the site with the State of Texas. He has also been instrumental in the saving of the Presidio San Saba at Menard.



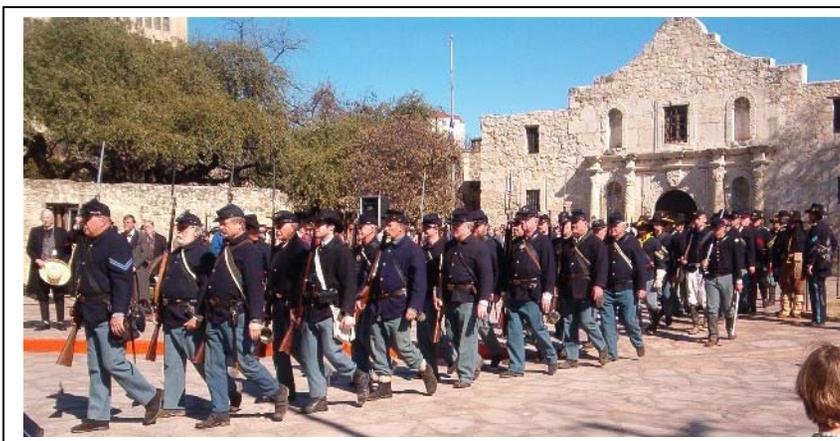
## From the Soldiers Handbook

607. When an officer enters the room where there are soldiers, the word "Attention" is given by some one who perceives him, when all rise and remain standing in the position of a soldier until the officer leaves the room. Soldiers at meals do not rise.

Officers in citizens' dress are saluted in the same manner as when in uniform.

183. Soldiers will wear the prescribed uniform in camp or garrison, and will not be permitted to keep in their possession any other clothing. When on fatigue parties, they will wear the proper fatigue dress.

## Fort McKavett Volunteers at the Alamo



## Twiggs Surrender at the start of the Civil War, 150 years later!



Fort McKavett volunteers Joe and Stella Gonzalez, along with Lee and Shirley Ragan were among the people taking part in the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the surrender of General Twiggs and the Federal Forces in Texas on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 1861 at the Alamo in San Antonio. Terri Trotti also was on hand for the ceremony.

*Thanks to Stella Gonzalez for these photos of the event.*



## Flora at Fort McKavett



*Common Texas Prickly Pear, also known as Nopal Prickly Pear*

Texas prickly pear has been used extensively for food. Their tunas are eaten raw or processed into preserves, syrups and fermented juice, tuna cheese (queso al tuna) and a tea to cure gallstones. Commercial alcohol is produced from the sap and the tender young joints are used as poultices to reduce swelling. The juice of the joints is also used in candle making. For cattle food the spines are burned from the joints. The older pads contain oxalic acid and may cause oxalic acid poisoning when eaten to excess. Of course many animals and birds feed on the fruit. There is a legend that the coyote brushes the spines off the fruit with his tail before eating it. [Texas A&M University, Texas Native Plants Database]

## Dessert Time in the Army

### **BROWN BETTY.**

Cooking apples, pared, cored, and sliced; dry-bread crumbs, or well-toasted bread rolled into crumbs; sugar, butter, and ground cinnamon.

Grease well a deep baking dish. Into the bottom of this put a layer of prepared apples; sprinkle them lightly with sugar; scatter small pieces of butter over this, then dust with ground cinnamon; over this place a layer of bread crumbs from one-half to three-quarters of an inch thick; over this apples, butter, and cinnamon, and continue this process until the dish is full, or until sufficient material has been used. The top layer must be crumbs, and on this must be scattered small pieces of butter. If the top layer is moistened with a couple of tablespoonfuls of milk it will brown more evenly.

Bake in a moderate oven from one-half to three-quarters of an hour.

When a fork will easily penetrate the apples it is cooked. Alden dried apples may be substituted for the fresh fruit.

It can be eaten hot or cold with butter, sugar, or sauce.

## Have Some Leftover Hard Tack?

### **BAKED CRACKER PUDDING.**

1 quart powdered cracker.	16 eggs, whites and yolks
7 pints sweet milk.	separated, whites beaten
½ pound melted butter.	to a stiff froth.

Put powdered cracker into a deep dish. Heat the milk slightly and pour over the cracker and soak for ten or fifteen minutes; then stir in the beaten yolks and melted butter. Finally stir in quickly the beaten whites, and put the mixture at once into a well-greased baking dish, and bake in a moderate oven from three-quarters of an hour to one hour. Top should be nicely trimmed. Hard bread may be substituted for crackers.