

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



Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 11, Number 3

March, 2012

Fort McKavett Upcoming Events

March 9-11, Frontier Women's Living History Conference, Fort Concho
March 10, School of the Piece, Fort Concho
March 17, Sprint Star Party, Fort McKavett*
Mar 23-24, West Texas Heritage Days, Fort McKavett*
April 13-14, Fort Richardson Living History Days
April 20-22, Confederate Reunion Grounds*
May 4-5, Fort Chadbourne Living History event
May 4-5, Lake Brownwood State Park Open House
May 11-12, Texas Forts Muster, Fort Worth
May 18, Fort Mason Living History
May 18-19, Lake Arrowhead State Park Buffalo Soldiers Day

*THC Historic Sites Event

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

www.fortmckavett.org



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

President's Message...

It's March again and we are geared up for our annual West Texas Heritage Days at Fort McKavett.

This year promises to be another great event. See inside this issue of the Gazette for more information.

This is the Friends of Fort McKavett's fund raiser for the year so if you have anything you would like to contribute to our silent auction, please bring it! With the increase in prices, we are in a struggle to make ends meet and still be able to provide food and projects for the site and our event. Every penny will be truly appreciated.

Also, we can use your help serving during meals, manning our information table or by bringing side dishes or desserts. We appreciate your support.

John Cobb
President
Friends of Fort McKavett

West Texas Heritage Days

March 23~24, 2012



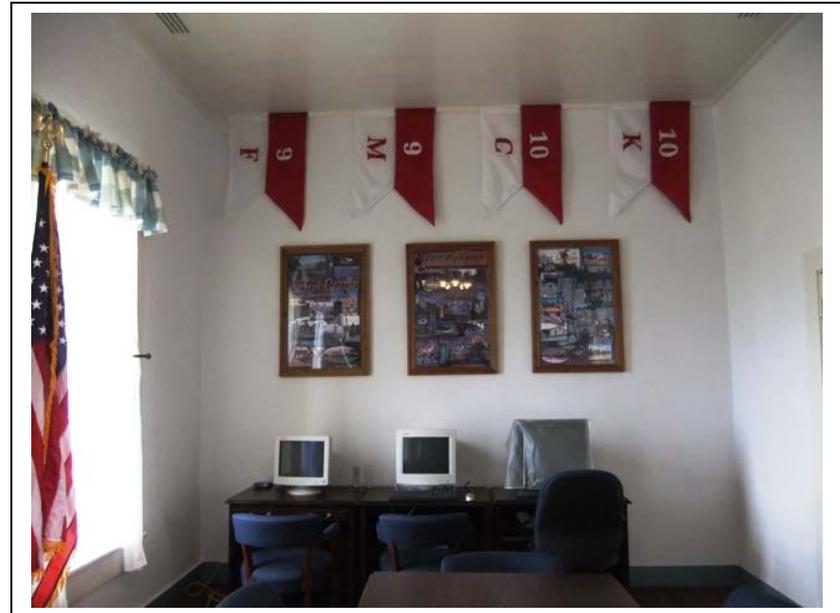
Make your plans to be there...Friday is Education Day with students coming in from all over West Texas. Saturday is Public Day with living history exhibits, U.S. Army exhibits, Texas Camel Corps, buffalo soldiers, artillery, cavalry, buffalo hunters, West Texas ranching exhibits, frontier ladies tea, tours of the fort, our annual silent auction, the Ice House Brass Band, Sahawe Indian Dancers, and our annual Friends of Fort McKavett membership meeting!



NOTE TO OUR FRIENDS MEMBERS:

We will need help with desserts, salads, and vegetable plates again, along with help serving and working our registration and silent auction tables. If you can help, contact Buddy Garza or Ken Lester at the site as soon as possible! Thanks for all your help over the years and in advance of this year's event!

Painting and Patching the Hospital Complex



The conference room at the Fort McKavett hospital complex is shown with a new coat of paint on the ceiling and walls. The staff has done their usual great job of taking care of our site!

From the 1881 Army Regulations...

SUPERVISION OF COOKING.

SEC. 1174. The officers of the Medical Department of the Army shall unite with the officers of the line [under such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of War] in superintending the cooking done by the enlisted men; and the Surgeon-General shall promulgate to the officers of said corps such regulations and instructions as may tend to insure the proper preparation of the ration of the soldier. [See § 1234.]

3 Mar., 1863, c. 78, s. 8, v. 12, p. 744.

27 Feb., 1877, c. 69, v. 19, p. 243.

SICK-DIET IN HOSPITAL.

SEC. 1175. Such quantities of fresh or preserved fruits, milk, butter, and eggs as may be necessary for the proper diet of the sick, may be allowed in hospitals. They shall be provided under such rules as the Surgeon-General, with the approval of the Secretary of War, shall prescribe.

3 Aug., 1861, c. 42, s. 14, v. 12, p. 289.

Fort McKavett at Fort Clark



Thanks to Doug Baum for getting these photos of our volunteers and staff at the 2012 Fort Clark event. We had a good turnout showing Fort McKavett and a tip of the hat goes to our volunteers for their hard work!



1853 Inspection of Fort McKavett



Submitted by Cody Moble

“The battalion is variously armed and clothed, which, besides the inconvenience attending its instruction, greatly detracts from its appearance on the parade occasions.” Asst. Adj. General W.G. Freeman, August 19, 1853

At the time of the inspection, five companies of the 8th US Infantry (B, D, E, F, and H) were stationed at Fort McKavett.

The majority of their days were spent building the structures that formed the basis for what now remains of the fort. The officer's quarters along “Lieutenant's Row” were constructed as one room kitchens without doors or windows in place and without wooden floors. Even by the 1856 inspection these were missing in the buildings on site. Each individual company had their own barracks, with Co. B's as the lone survivor today.

Drill was lacking due to the importance placed on construction; the men had previously been living in tents set up along the parade ground and exposure was taking its toll on the men.

Experimental weapons and accoutrements were being tested by the troops at Fort McKavett during this time. Co. B was noted as carrying the Nippes Maynard primer conversion on their m1835/40 muskets, while the other companies were using m1842 musket. India rubber haversacks, knapsacks, and canteens were being tested for durability in the harsh conditions at Fort McKavett. The knapsacks notably failed in the heat of Texas' summers as the rubber would become gummy and turn the men's backs black.

Old surplus uniforms were being issued to the men at Fort McKavett for both fatigue and dress. They were, however, being issued the new pattern caps (m1851 shako) though the trimmings varied by company. As written in the inspection report:

“Recent orders require the 8th Infantry to wear the late uniform till (sic) the supply on hand is exhausted. In consequence, four companies turned out with the full dress of the old pattern with the new caps and pompons, and the fifth (H) in the old undress with the new caps without pompons. Both arms and clothing were, however, in fair order.”

Site Staff Visit Varner Hogg

Site Staff Jay Wright and Cody Mobley traveled to Varner Hogg Plantation in West Columbia, Texas in late January to assist with the transfer of artifacts in the Ima Hogg Collection to their new collections storage facility. Working alongside Varner Hogg site staff, Jay and Cody transferred the artifacts without incident....even though the rosewood piano proved to be most difficult to move!



Reminder to send in registrations for WTHD 2012

If you haven't registered for West Texas Heritage Days, and plan on attending, please do so ASAP! The dates for this year are March 23-24, 2012.

From the Army Cooks Manual

REMARKS ON POTATOES.

As a general rule, the smaller the eye the better the potato. When full in the eye they are either of an inferior quality or about to sprout. Rather small and medium-sized potatoes are to be preferred.

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MANUAL FOR ARMY COOKS.

TIME-TABLE FOR COOKING VEGETABLES.

Potatoes, old, boiled	30 minutes.
Potatoes, new, baked.....	45 minutes.
Potatoes, new, boiled	20 minutes.
Sweet potatoes, boiled	45 minutes.
Sweet potatoes, baked	1 hour.
Squash, boiled	25 minutes.
Squash, baked	45 minutes.
Shell beans, boiled	1 hour.
Green peas, boiled	20 to 40 minutes.
String beans, boiled.....	1 to 2 hours.
Green corn	25 minutes to 1 hour.
Asparagus	15 to 30 minutes.
Spinach	1 to 2 hours.
Tomatoes, fresh.....	1 hour.
Tomatoes, canned.....	30 minutes.
Cabbage	45 minutes to 2 hours.
Cauliflower	1 to 2 hours.
Dandelions	2 to 3 hours.
Beet greens.....	1 hour.
Onions	1 to 2 hours.
Beets	1 to 5 hours.
Turnips, white.....	45 minutes to 1 hour.
Turnips, yellow.....	1½ to 2 hours.
Parsnips.....	1 to 2 hours.
Carrots	1 to 2 hours.

Nearly all these vegetables are eaten dressed with salt, pepper, and butter, but sometimes a small piece of lean pork is boiled with them, and seasons them sufficiently.