

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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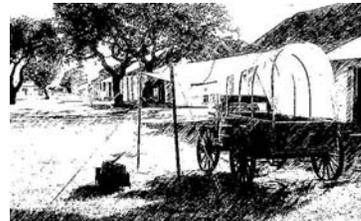
Officers Quarters Update

Due to the remodeling and construction of the Nimitz site, TPWD will not be bringing the furnishings and displays to the Captains Row buildings for several months.

The earliest these displays will be installed will be late June or later. There is a possibility there will be no installation until next year.

This is a shame visitors will not be able to see these displays.

We will keep you informed as we find out more information.



A Couple of Announcements

First of all...Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-26th, we are looking for volunteers to assist with tours of the site and work in the Post Library inventorying the collection. If you can help, contact John Cobb at:

cobbfarm@ev1.net

Or contact Gabe at the Post as soon as possible.

The second thing is we need donations to help with postage for the newsletter. We now are sending out over 200 copies per month. This has eaten our budget and if you can help, sent a check to Friends of Fort McKavett marked for newsletter in care of Gabe.

**Fort McKavett
State Historic Site**

TEXAS
PARKS &
HISTORIC SITES

The Last Soldier to Die on Duty at Fort McKavett

From the Medical Journal, Fort McKavett, Texas November, 1882

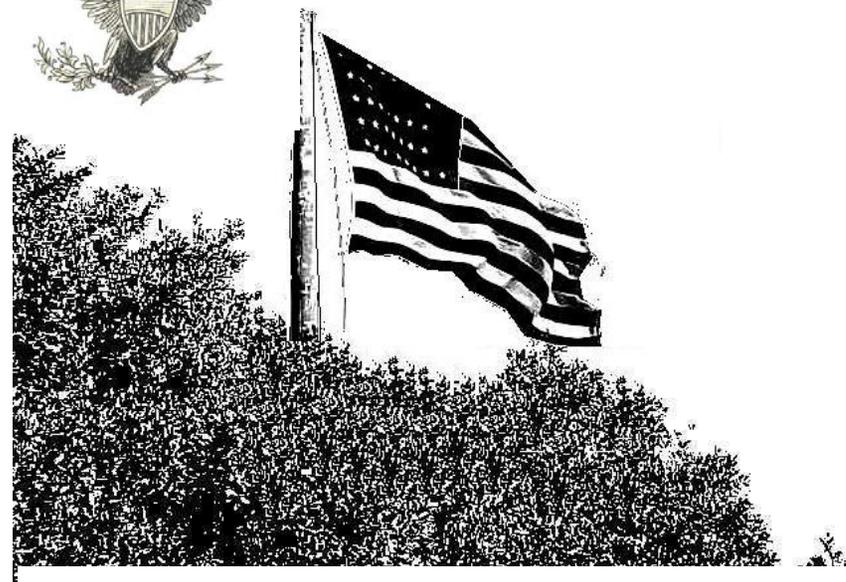
Sergeant Leander Batchelder, Company "D", 16th Infantry, with one man was sent in pursuit November 12th 1882 of two men who had escaped from the guard house the preceding night, having a mount of mules. At a town about 20 miles distant they became intoxicated and when proceeding on their way back to the post November 13th 1882 the Sergeant was thrown off or fell from his animal, one foot not being disengaged from the stirrup, he was dragged a distance of nearly half a mile before it was freed from it. He was taken back to the town where I met him with ambulance, returning to the post with him November 14th 1882. His whole body sustained numerous contusions and the entire surface of his back and both sides of trunk were completely denuded. There were no apparent symptoms of any injury internally. The immediate cause of death was non retention of requisite heat.

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Sergeant Batchelder died four days after returning to the Post and was buried at the Fort McKavett cemetery. Sergeant Leander Batchelder was removed to the National Cemetery in San Antonio when the Post was abandoned in 1883. He is now located in Section E, Grave 879.

This goes to show how people did some pretty stupid things even back then...

Remembering all our Soldiers 1776-2003



Fort McKavett

Upcoming Events

- May 2-4, Texas Forts Trail, Fort Worth (Contact Buddy at the Site)
- May 17-18, Texas State Railroad Living History Timeline
- May 16-17, 2nd Annual Living History Days, Fort Chadbourne
- May 24-26, Memorial Day Tours at the Post
- July 4-5-6, Guided Tours and Living History at Fort McKavett
- December 5-7, Christmas at Fort Concho

In 16th Infantry's Corporal E. A. Bode's memoirs of 1882, he talks about the soldier's life at Fort McKavett.

"[As] to the military life at the fort, the joys and sorrows of the soldiers at a regimental headquarters, the guard duty was light. One hour's drill two or three times a week kept our limbs from growing stiff. [This] besides a couple of spectacular displays of dress parades for the amusement of the women constituted our post duty. The privates, if they were not policing around the garrison or scrubbing the company kitchens, were marched to the river to work from morning to night with pick and shovel building dams for the post gardens, or else some other kind of slaving around the fort."

Bode also mentioned the life of the Non-Commissioned Officers on Post.

He states, *"The noncommissioned officers, on the other hand, had less work to perform, [being] only required to superintend. But their money was well-earned by drilling recruits, putting them through their first military instruction. The most disagreeable job was surely to have a dozen green shavetails (a new army mule) and instruct them in the different maneuvers. No one [can] imagine that there is such ignorant class of men alive on this earth until he puts a dozen or so through the different maneuvers and manual of arms"*.



Part of the Crowd at the Easter Egg Hunt April 19th. Around 150 people attended and there were over 2,000 eggs found.