

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



Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 6, Number 5 **May, 2007**

Fort McKavett Upcoming Events

- May 4-5**, Fort Chadborne, School Day on Friday the 4th, General Public on the 5th
- May 12**, Mission Tejas Folk Festival, 1820 to 1880 Living History
- May 18-20**, Texas State Railroad, School Day on Friday the 18th
- Jun 9**, Fort McKavett Volunteer Fire Department 7th Annual BBQ Cook-off and Auction
- Jun 23-24**, Last Frontier Heritage Celebration, Morton
- Oct 12-13**, “Fort Griffin Living History Days”, 140th anniversary
- Dec 7-9**, “Christmas at Old Fort Concho”, San Angelo



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www.fortmckavett.org

18 Historic Sites Possible Transfers to Texas Historical Commission

The list of possible transfers include Acton State Historic Site, Caddoan Mounds State Historic Site, Casa Navarro State Historic Site, Confederate Reunion Grounds State Historic Site, Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site, Fannin Battleground State Historic Site, Fort Griffin State Historic Site, Fort Lancaster State Historic Site, **Fort McKavett State Historic Site**, Fulton Mansion State Historic Site, Landmark Inn State Historic Site, Levi Jordan State Historic Site, Magoffin Home State Historic Site, Sabine Pass Battleground State Historic Site, Sam Bell Maxey House State Historic Site, San Felipe State Historic Site, Starr Family Home State Historic Site, and Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site.

If the bill passes as it is written now, the budget will almost *triple* for Fort McKavett as well as Texas State Parks. It is too early to tell how the Legislature will vote. There is a report inside this month's Fort McKavett Gazette on these matters. We will let everyone know as soon as possible about the transfers

Fort McKavett at Fort Richardson's 140th Anniversary



The Commanding Officer's Quarters at Fort Richardson before the Storm hit us on Friday afternoon. There were high winds but no real damage done. Cold weather followed and everyone was glad they had brought their Greatcoats!

Right: Richard and Cindy Vaughn with their displays at Fort Richardson. Even inside the buildings, Saturday was cold for us. They were joined by John Schultz and John Cobb with displays for Fort McKavett. School day on Friday (their first) brought over 680 Students to the Post.



Left: Part of the Officer's Displays from Fort McKavett. The staff at Richardson went out of their way to make everyone as comfortable as possible, bringing noon lunches around to each display, hot coffee in the mornings and afternoons. It was greatly appreciated! After Saturday's visitors left (there were many this year), Fort Richardson hosted a period dance for everyone. In spite of the weather, this year's event went very well.

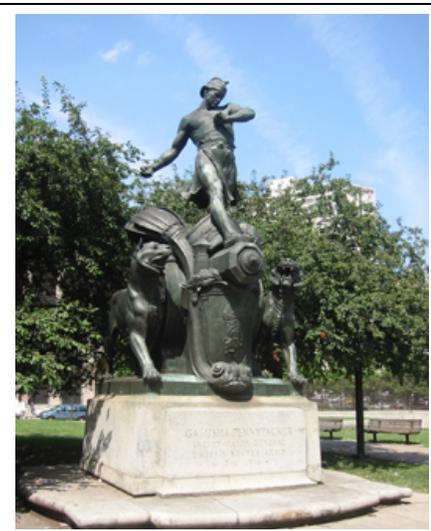
Drunken Soldiers were a problem at Fort McKavett

Assistant Surgeon S.W. Crawford at Fort McKavett in 1853 said the consequence of the labor soldiers had to perform was that the enlisted man "loses any interest he may have had in his profession, which finally becomes distasteful to him and he falls, in many instances, the easy victim of the liquor-sellers that crowd around the frontier posts."



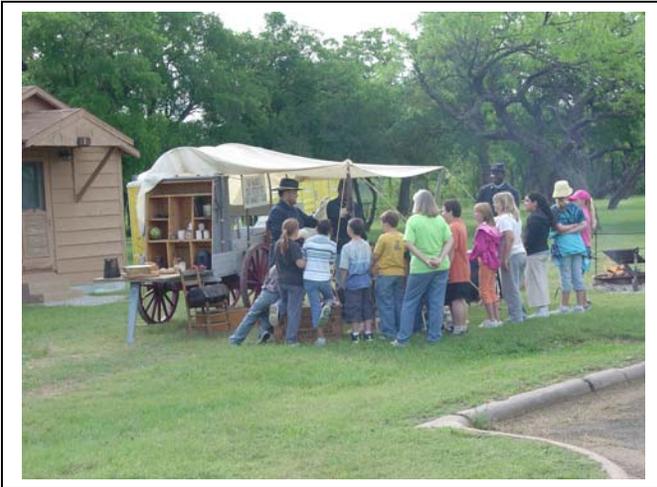
Union Brigadier General Galusha Pennypacker, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient. On April 28, 1865, he was promoted to Brigadier General of Volunteers; one month before his 21st birthday. This made him the youngest general officer in United States Military history, a distinction he still holds. Born in Chester County, Pa. in 1844. Sgt. 9th Pa. Inf. 90 days regiment. Capt. 97th Pa. Inf. Wounded four times. Bvt. Major General in March of 1865 and Major General in 1867. He commanded both the 16th Infantry and Fort McKavett from 1881 to 1882. He retired in 1883 and died in 1916.

This memorial located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania portrays the valiant spirit of Pennypacker by depicting him clad in classic costume and striding forward atop a gun carriage flanked by two tigers.



*Galusha Pennypacker
Commanding Officer
Fort McKavett, Texas*

Fort McKavett at Lake Brownwood State Park



Education Day at Lake Brownwood State Park's 10th Annual "Open House" brought out over 750 Students and Teachers to this year's event. The weather was perfect on both Friday and Saturday with lots of visitors to this year's event.



Left: Officer's Display at Lake Brownwood. Below: the entire Park was covered in Bluebonnets this year.



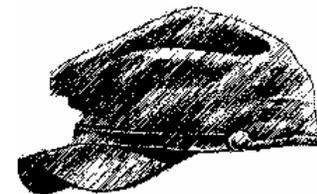
Students got to see Buffalo Soldiers, Seminole Scouts, Medical Displays, Officers Displays, Wildlife Displays, and had a chance to go fishing in stocked tanks. Many had never had a chance to fish before and it was a great hit with them.

Boy Scouts Jamboree at Fort McKavett

**BOERNE BSA JAMBOREE CAMPOUT
FORT MCKAVETT STATE HISTORIC SITE
APRIL 20-22, 2007**

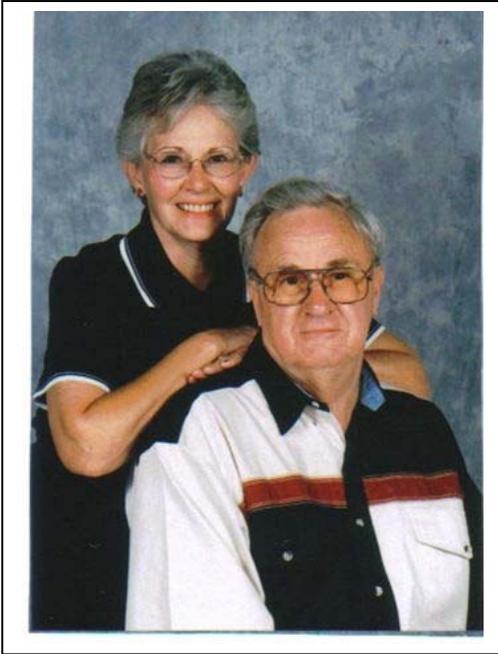


Boy Scout Troops 18, 102, and 407 from Boerne held their Jamboree Campout on April 21st at Fort McKavett. They worked hard clearing Juniper by the Government Springs and on the Nature Trail. They did a bang up job and we give them a "tip of the hat" for their efforts!



Of note: "The Quartermaster Corps does not work with battleships, airplanes, or tanks," a former Quartermaster general once noted. "We feed individuals; we clothe individuals; we cater to human beings."

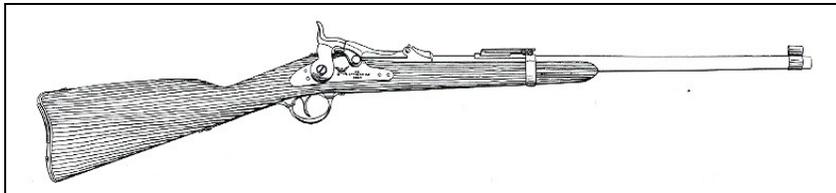
Special Thanks to our Hosts



Park Hosts on duty here for the month of March and our “West Texas Heritage Days” event were Roger and Carolyn McCartney. We want to thank them for their efforts for us. It is greatly appreciated. We wish them “Godspeed” on their travels!



The Issue Model 1873 .45-70 Carbine



The Cavalry was issued the Springfield Carbine started in 1873 and remained the primary small arms weapons of the U.S. military for 20 years. The single-shot breech loading rifle was chambered to accept the .45/70 metallic cartridge. The Carbine was chambered for the .45/55 metallic cartridge. One of the “fun” things the veterans would pull on a new recruit would be to slip one of the .45/70 rifle rounds in the loads the recruit was practice firing. Of course, it would knock them for quite a loop. Maybe their idea of fun and mine are a little different!

Legislative Update

Testimony for funding and dealing with the possible transfer of Historic Sites from Texas Parks and Wildlife to the Texas Historical Commission were given before the Committee in April. John Cobb, speaking for the Friends of Fort McKavett asked several questions we would like to see answered before a transfer would happen. We are glad to report; the Committee addressed most of these questions in the “rewrite” of HB 12. Now, we will have to wait over the next 4-5 weeks to see what the Legislature does with this question along with the full funding for all our Parks and Historic Sites. As soon as there is anything coming out of the legislation, we will get the word out as soon as possible.

Fort McKavett Volunteer Fire Department 7th Annual BBQ Cook-off

The Fort McKavett Volunteer Fire Department will host its 7th annual BBQ, beans and chili cook-off benefiting the Fort McKavett VFD Building Fund. Activities will begin Saturday morning June 9th with cook-off participants meeting at the fire station for registration at 9 AM. Members of the VFD will operate a booth selling food and drinks to the public beginning at 11 AM. Fund raising activities include a silent auction of donated items from area supporters beginning at 1 PM. A BBQ dinner with all the trimmings will be served at 5:30 PM, followed by the Grand Auction beginning at 6. Live music entertainment will be provided by “The Old Hat Band” after the Grand Auction. For more information contact the Fort McKavett Trading Post at 325-396-2350.

The Problem of Potatoes at Fort McKavett

Fifty barrels of Irish potatoes were during the year brought from Dennison, Tex., and sold by the commissary for 3 1/2 cents per pound; very recently they were retailed by hucksters at \$9 per bushel. Sweet potatoes are purchased for \$1.50 per bushel. Water-cress grows abundantly all the

Shown in the 1874 Medical Report, Irish Potatoes were brought in from Dennison, Texas and sold at the Commissary for 3 1/2 cents per pound (to the Companies only). The Post Trader sold Irish Potatoes for \$9.00 per bushel. This comes out to 50 cents per potato on the average. That was too steep a price for most Officers or Enlisted men to pay for potatoes. It would have to be a very special occasion for people to lay out that kind of money. The gardens at the Post could grow anything but Irish Potatoes. This was because of the type of soil found on the Post.