

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 5**

**May, 2012**

## Fort McKavett Upcoming Events

May 4-5, Fort Chadbourne Living History event, School Day on Friday  
May 4-5, Lake Brownwood State Park Open House, School Day on Friday  
May 11-12, Texas Forts Muster, Fort Worth  
May 18-19, Fort Lancaster Living History event, School Day on Friday\*  
May 18-19, Lake Arrowhead State Park Buffalo Soldiers Day, School Day on Friday  
September 14-15, Caprock Canyons State Park, Buffalo Days, School Day on Friday  
September 29, Palo Duro Canyon, Anniversary of the Battle  
October 12-13, Fort Griffin Living History Days, Education Day on Friday\*  
October 20, Fort Stockton event  
December 7-9, Fort Concho, Christmas at Old Fort Concho, School Day on Friday

\*THC Historic Sites Event

Color Copies of all the Fort McKavett Gazettes can be found at:  
[www.fortmckavett.org](http://www.fortmckavett.org)



## President's Message...

Fort McKavett's volunteers are representing the site all over the state again. From East Texas to the Panhandle, we are getting the word out about our fort.

We have several events coming up, Fort Chadbourne will be opening their new visitor's center at their event and it should be quite the show. Lake Brownwood is having their annual Open House and Lake Arrowhead is having their annual event. The Texas Forts Muster in Fort Worth is also coming up.

If you are out and about, make sure to stop by the Fort McKavett exhibits and support our volunteers for their great work!

*Hope to see you on the trail!*

**John Cobb**  
President  
Friends of Fort McKavett

# CONFEDERATE REUNION GROUNDS

APRIL, 2012



*John Cobb and Tad Goss at the CRG Event*



**Left: Lee Reed and Sharon Baird showing frontier women exhibit.**

**Below: Confederate line waiting to move out during the reenactment**



## Ambulance at Confederate Reunion Grounds



**Below: Tad Goss showing the doctor's exhibit on school day**



## Texas Historic Commission's Confederate Reunion Grounds

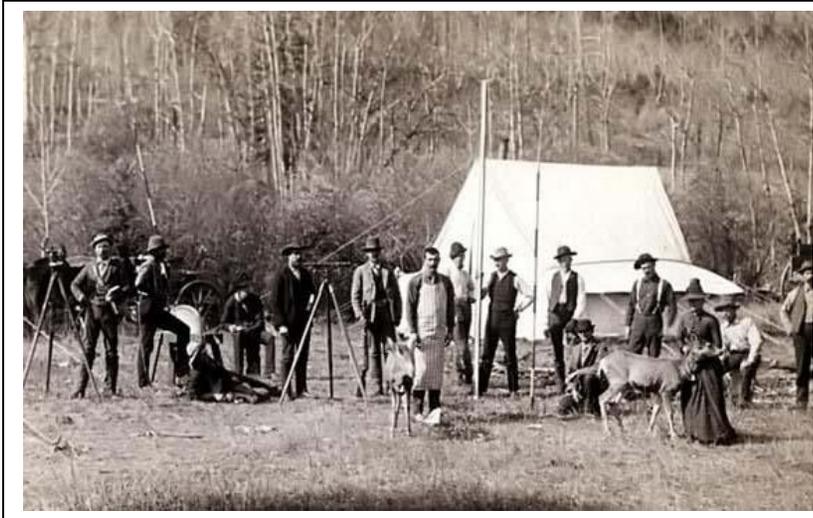
The Confederate Reunion Grounds is one of the smallest of the THC sites. Landscaped in natural plants and kept maintained the year around, it has become a great place to visit. Once a year, there is a "reenactment" of a Civil War battle with a separate living history and educational encampment.

## OUTFITTING SURVEYING EXPEDITIONS

Surveying and scientific expeditions (not carried out by the Army) were allowed to be outfitted at military posts when they were sponsored by the federal government. Provisions would include animals, food, camp equipment and tents as shown in the following Army Regulation:

**689.** Proceeds of sales of old materials, condemned stores, or other public property, will be deposited and covered into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts on account of "Proceeds of Government property," and shall not be withdrawn or applied without a subsequent appropriation by law; except that moneys received from the sale of stores, materials, or supplies to officers and enlisted men, or to any exploring or surveying expedition authorized by law, and all sales of subsistence supplies, shall respectively revert to the appropriation out of which they were originally expended, and shall be applied to the purposes for which they were appropriated by law. (R. S., sections 3618 and 3692. Act March 3, 1875.)

This is why you will find old photographs of expeditions and survey parties using Army equipment.



This would include approved surveys of railroad lines, roads, townships, rivers, and other areas where the Corps of Engineers did not have representation.

## Post Gardens

With springtime here, everyone is starting to think about planting or has planted their gardens. To give you an idea of how Fort McKavett's Post Garden fared, this example is from the May, 1877 surgeon's report from Surgeon Goddard:

### Post and Company Gardens:

During the month of April, the ground used in former years for garden purposes was ploughed up, and divided into seven equal portions, six were allotted to the six companies on duty at the post, and the seventh portion set apart as a post garden, for use of the staff and non-commissioned staff officers. Each section of land was placed in charge of two enlisted men who attend to its cultivation. The gardens this year have proven unusually good. Large quantities of vegetables, such as onions, beets, cabbage, radishes, corn, lettuce, squash, parsley, turnips, okra, cucumbers, string beans, peas, tomatoes, water and musk-melons have been raised.

Gen. J. Goddard  
Surgeon of Surgery,  
Post Surgeon.

It is easy to see why Fort McKavett was considered a healthy post compared to the other Texas sites. Everyone had a hard time with their post gardens because of lack of water or dry weather. McKavett's large garden area in the bottoms by the river produced the year around.



# MISSION TEJAS STATE PARK



*Lee Reed and company represented Fort McKavett and the Texas Buffalo Soldier Program at Mission Tejas State Park in late April*



*Make plans to come to Fort Chadborne and visit their new visitors center (being constructed in the background).*

# From the Army Cooks Manual

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MANUAL FOR ARMY COOKS.

## SALAD DRESSING.

3 tablespoonfuls oil.            1 teaspoonful mustard.  
Yolk of 1 egg.                     $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoonful salt.  
1 tablespoonful vinegar.

Rub together the oil and egg; it is better to first beat the egg; then rub in the mustard, then the salt, and lastly the vinegar, gradually. A few grains of cayenne pepper may be added. A boiled Irish potato (mashed fine) may be substituted for the yolk of the egg.

If the oil and egg or potato do not mix well, a few drops of vinegar will facilitate the process.

Instead of oil, there may be used melted butter, cream, or the juice from boiled ham. When about to serve the salad, pour over the dressing.

This dressing may be used with every species of lettuce, chicory, endive, water cress, celery, cabbage, dandelion, onions, tomatoes, etc.; cold boiled cauliflower, beets, string and dried beans (boiled or baked), corn, potatoes, etc.; chicken, turkey, lobster, crab, boiled or baked salmon, shrimp, etc.

## TO PREPARE COFFEE, No. 2.

The vessel should be clean and the water fresh and clear. Fill the vessel with the necessary quantity of water and put it over a brisk fire. When it comes to a boil stir in the coffee, previously moistened with warm (not hot) water. Cover closely; let it boil up for two minutes, stirring from the sides and top as it boils up. Exercise great care that the coffee does not boil over. To clear it remove it from the fire and dash over the surface a cup of cold fresh water; cover closely and set it on the back of the stove to keep warm but not to boil.