

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



Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 14, Number 5

May, 2015

Fort McKavett Upcoming Events

May 3. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) will offer FREE admission to all 20 THC state historic sites on Sunday.*

May 9. "All Hard Work Brings Profit" Trades program.

May 8-9. Forts Day event in Fort Worth

May 15. Friday Fort Lancaster SHS. Education day this year, no Public Day on Saturday because of the construction*

****THC Historic Sites Event***



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

www.fortmckavett.org

**Join us on Facebook
Friends of Fort McKavett**



President's Message...

The fort hosted the rescheduled Spring Star Party in April. The event brought a little more rain to the site which will help keep everything green for awhile longer.

I spent some time this month getting Old Stories New Voices applications to Junction 4th and 5th graders. They are very excited about this wonderful opportunity to experience a week at Fort McKavett! This year's camp is open to students who are completing 4th or 5th grade and who live in the area around the fort and Dallas/Fort Worth. TSHA has just added a few spots for students who live in Austin and San Antonio. Drop off and Pick up for those students will be in Austin only. If you know of a student who might be interested the application deadline is May 15th. Applications can be obtained at:
<https://tshaonline.org/education/students/osnv-youth-camp>

Check out the calendar for all of the living history opportunities in May!
Lisa Lester
President

Restoration Project at McKavett



Fort McKavett Staff and Volunteers are restoring one of the outbuildings behind Lt.'s Quarters to its original shape with all stone construction and wood shingle roof. Hopefully, it will be finished in Mid-May and will be used for program equipment storage and in our Living History weekends.



Spring Star Party at Fort McKavett

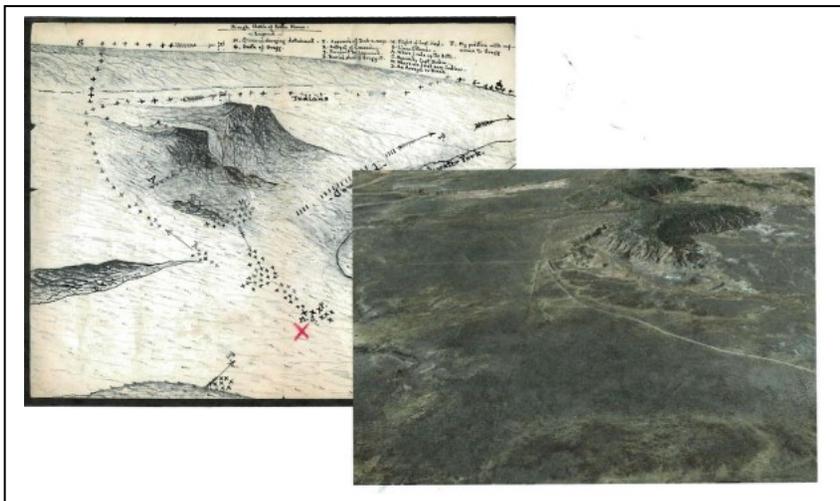


The twice delayed Spring Star Party was finally held on April 25th. Heavy rains prevented the star party from being held on the original date of March 21st. For the first time ever, the star party was rescheduled. Our first choice of an alternate date was April 18th to coincide with the new-moon. Unfortunately there was a conflict with another group, so we were forced to reschedule during a first quarter Moon. A brilliant Moon prevents all but the brightest galaxies, nebulas, and clusters from being visible. On the positive side, it is a perfect time to view the mountains and craters of the Moon. Another positive was that the usual star party lighting restrictions were not necessary because the Moon was so bright. In fact, the star party was held in front of the fort's Visitor's Center, just a short walk from the parking lot and restrooms. While the crowd was small, they had a great time and they are looking forward to coming back on October 10th for our fall star party.

Thanks to Ken Lester for this report!

*Plan to attend the Fall Star Party on
October 10th ...*

Over the months ahead...



John Cobb has been to the Archeological Research and Investigation of the Battlefield of the Blanco Canyon fight on the White River to document some of the activities going on.

Why is this important to Fort McKavett? In 1871-72 and 1874, this was the Supply Bases for Mackenzie's Expeditions into the Lubbock area and Palo Duro Canyon.

Fort McKavett's 24th Infantry Companies and 10th Cavalry under Lt. Col. William Shafter had his supply camp there in '71-71 and in '74, Major Anderson of the 10th Infantry from McKavett had the Supply Camp for the Palo Duro Fight. The 4th Cavalry was transferred from Fort McKavett to Fort Richardson as a staging area for both of these expeditions (both times, returned to base at Fort McKavett).

One of the fights in the first expedition was at this location in Blanco Canyon, where Lt. R. G. Carter and 5 enlisted men held off an attack of over 100 Comanche Warriors. Carter was awarded the Medal of Honor for this action and received a leg wound when his horse fell into rocks, causing him to receive Medical Retirement a little later.

We will be showing more on this over the next few months and I think you will find it very interesting...

More from the Spring Star Party



Thanks to Lisa Lester of this photo showing some of the visitors at this Springs Star Party in April



A Shot of the Moon by Tim McTaggart with his cell phone through a Telescope used by the Astronomers



From the Army Cooks Manual

POTATO PIE.

(Sufficient for 22 men.)

16½ pounds meat.

1 pound onions.

20 pounds potatoes.

3 ounces salt.

½ ounce pepper.

Cut up and stew the onions with jelly from the meat added; boil or steam the potatoes, and mash them; grease the inside of a baking dish; line the sides with a portion of the mashed potatoes; place the meat and cooked onions in the center; season with pepper and salt; cover over with the remainder of the mashed potatoes, and bake till the potato cover is brown. As the mashed potatoes absorb the moisture of the meat and render it dry, about two pints of gravy prepared from the liquor in which the onions were cooked should be poured into the pie after it is taken out of the oven.

MARROW BONES.

Have the bones neatly sawed into convenient sizes and cover the ends with a small piece of common crust made with flour and water, over this tie a floured cloth, and place them upright in a saucepan of boiling water, taking care there is sufficient to cover the bones. Boil two hours, remove the cloth and paste, and serve with dry toast.

COOKED SALT BEEF.

Salt beef before being cooked should be well washed, and then, when practicable, soaked in cold water for twenty-four hours, changing the water three times.

We need to support the Texas Heritage Trails Program, and ask that you support the Texas Historical Commission's \$4 million exceptional budget item request for the Texas Heritage Trails Program.

In 2013, Heritage Tourism created 54,000 Texas jobs, represented 10.5% of all travel to Texas, and generated 12.5% of all direct travel spending. The Texas Heritage Trails Program contributes significantly to Texas's \$7.3 billion heritage travel and tourism impact.

Fort McKavett State Historic Site and the Presidio de San Saba receive a good number of our visitors due to this program.

It's not too late, *contact your Member of the Texas House and Texas Senator now to let them know you want this program funded!*

Do so now! Write, call, email, sign the petition and support our Texas Forts Trail.