

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



# Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 9, Number 11

November, 2010

## Fort McKavett Upcoming Events

November 13-14 Fort McKavett,  
Texas State Troops Living History  
December 3-5, Christmas at Old  
Fort Concho, Education Day on  
Friday  
December 11, Yuletide Texas,  
Battleship Texas  
March 25-26, West Texas  
Heritage Days, Fort McKavett\*  
April 3, Fort McKavett Spring  
Star Party  
April 8-10, Fort Richardson Days  
May 13-14, Lake Arrowhead State  
Park Open House  
May 20-21, Fort Lancaster  
Western Frontier Days\*

\*THC Historic Sites Event



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
*real places telling real stories*

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

[www.fortmckavett.org](http://www.fortmckavett.org)

## Notes from the Post...

The Friends of Fort McKavett's rain water recovery system is now installed and is capturing water in the cistern. This will be the first phase of several in this project for the Site.

As you can see by this month's Gazette, our volunteers have been busy in October with living history events, THC archeology events, our annual Fall Star Party, and with improvements to the Site.

Thanks go to all our staff and volunteers for their hard work. We also have new night light markers (red in color) the Friends have purchased for special night events. These worked very well for our star party and will be used throughout the year!

Make plans to visit the site and see the improvements.

John Cobb  
President  
Friends of Fort McKavett

## Living History Days at Fort Griffin State Historic Site



This year's Fort Griffin event had great weather. Top right to left, and down: Greg Hector sounding retreat; Joe Gonzales; John Schultz and Richard Vaughn; John Cobb; and Russell Tipton with the sun coming up over his head; Color Detail.



There were 721 visitors and students on Friday and another 201 visitors on Saturday.



We had a good time visiting with each other after a long summer off. Our encampment was the largest of all the forts. Well done crew!



# Army Recipes

## Chili con Carne.

92. For 50 men, take 12½ pounds of meat (scraps) and cut into pieces about ½ inch cube. Place in a bake-pan and fry in the same manner as beefsteak, but using a smaller amount of fat. (All fat should have been trimmed from the meat before cutting up.) Place the meat (fried) in a bake-pan and cover about 1 inch with beef stock; add 3 ounces of ground Chili peppers and salt to taste; let simmer until the meat is thoroughly done. Take 2 quarts of baked beans and pass through a meat-cutter and mix well in the chili con carne; then add 1 quart of beans whole. When ready to serve, there should be sufficient beef stock to just cover the preparation. While cooking it may be necessary to add beef stock to replace that lost by evaporation.

## Rice Pudding.

123. For 50 men, boil 3 Government tin cups of rice rapidly in water; strain through a sieve; add to each cup of rice 3 eggs, well whipped. To each 3 cups of rice add 1 can of Highland cream sweetened to taste, and a small amount of extract added. Salt slightly; mix well with sugar and add water so as to cover about ½ inch. Bake slowly in the oven until slightly brown. Serve with sauce. (The rice should not be over-boiled, but the kernels should remain separate and firm.)

*Note: These Recipes are for 50 Men*

*Beef is procured by contract at 10¢ per pound and  
could be had in any quantity; the contract is for 200  
to 400 lbs per month all the time but it is not to whom  
he pays for the purchase; the contract is for 200 lbs per month  
and by this means of wandering off, as they are unaccounted  
to the range.*

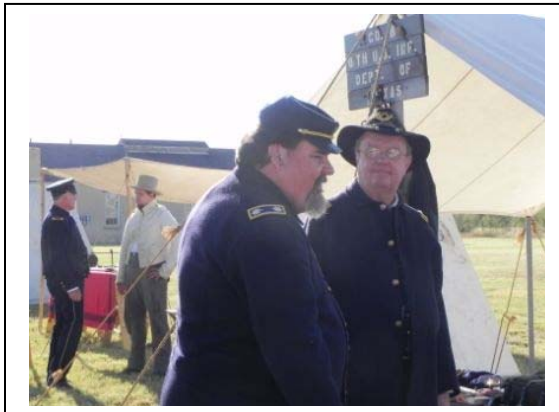
May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1857 found there was a fresh beef supply at Fort McKavett. 20-40 beeves were kept on hand at all times and a butcher was hired to take care of the herd. He was paid the princely sum of \$30.00 per month. They had a real problem with the cattle wandering off and getting lost.



## *Fort Stockton Annual Living History Event*



*Fort McKavett was well represented at this year's event in Fort Stockton on October 16<sup>th</sup> with Chuck Dixon, John Schultz, Joe Gonzalez, Cody Mobley, and others led by our own Richard Vaughn.*



*Left: Fort Griffin State Historic Site Manager Mitch Baird is seen speaking with Lee Ragan at this year's Fort Stockton Event.*

### **New Rainwater Recovery System**

**Right:** The new guttering and rainwater recovery system at the Hospital has been installed. The Friends of Fort McKavett paid for this as one of our projects for the site. We also have a hand pump that will be installed and in the year to come along with several projects to add to this teaching tool. More on this next month!



## *Confederate Reunion Grounds State Historic Site*



*Left: John Cobb and some of the visitors at this year's Archeology Day event at Texas Historic Commission's Confederate Reunion Grounds held on October 16<sup>th</sup>. There was a display of the Grand Army of the Republic for visitors to view. Over 100 visitors came to the site and were not disappointed with the exhibits and demonstrations.*



## **More Work Updates from Fort McKavett**

Fort McKavett is continuing to restore and work on the site. The photo at right shows Brandon Halfmann hard at work preparing the sinks and deadhouse for a new coat of whitewash. We are now working on whitewashing many buildings at the site. The next time you go out there, thank the staff for all their hard work.



## *Annual Fall Star Party*



*Left: Visitors are treated to lectures, viewing, and getting to see several types of telescopes on the Parade Ground at Fort McKavett at this year's Fall Star Party. Clear skies meant good viewing for everyone.*

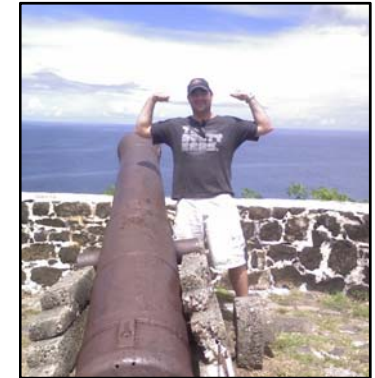
The Johnson Space Center Astronomical Society held the fall star party at Fort McKavett Thursday, October 7 – Sunday October 10<sup>th</sup>. 35 club members traveled to the fort. A few of them came from as far away as England and New Mexico but most of the amateur astronomers were from the Houston area. No matter how far they traveled, their efforts were rewarded with the three best nights of observing we have had in a number of years! The days were warm and sunny and the nights were cool and clear! The group was able to observe one of Jupiter's moons passing in front the planet and members were able to watch Comet Hartley traveling through the skies for three days. The beautiful weather brought a number of people to the fort for the archaeology programs during the day and 13 people attended the beginning astronomy program presented by David Haviland and Ken Lester in the school house at 6:30p.m. As the Sun set, the crowd swelled! Unfortunately, we don't have an official count but several people estimated the crowd at about 250! It was undoubtedly one of our largest turnouts. We had a large group of people from Junction, a homeschooling group from the Sonora area as well as a number of other visitors from Sonora. Lubbock, Abilene, San Angelo, and Amarillo were other towns that visitors traveled from to attend this event. Oooohs and Aaaahs and "that can't be real" were heard as the visitors looked through eye pieces at Jupiter and 4 of its moons, Comet Hartley, a Double Cluster, galaxies, globular clusters, open clusters, and nebulas. The path of red garden lights purchased by the Friends of Fort McKavett were a big success and we receive compliments on how well they worked from visitors who had attended other star parties. Many thanks to the park hosts for their help with this event.

*Submitted by Lisa Lester*



*Left: David Haviland and Ken Lester are shown at Fort McKavett's schoolhouse giving a program on beginning astronomy.*

## *Fort McKavett Staff News*



*Left: Jay Wright, staff member of Fort McKavett SHS, poses with some 1820's infantrymen during his visit to Fort Snelling, Minnesota. Right: Brandon Halfmann, staff member of Fort McKavett SHS, poses triumphantly with a Napoleon era cannon at Fort Rodney, on the Caribbean island of Saint Lucia during his honeymoon.*

## *Archeology Day at Fort McKavett October 9, 2010*

The Archeology Program on October 9, 2010 was a success. The two presentations on the archeological surveys conducted at Fort McKavett were well attended. Children dug for 'artifacts' in the mock archeology dig and watched flint nodes being transformed into arrowheads. Site visitors were also able to watch experimental archeology as interpreters displayed period trades such as woodworking and harness making.

