

Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

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

Volume 14, Number 11

November, 2015

Fort McKavett Upcoming Events

November 7, Fort McKavett, Build All Day, Period Carpentry*

December 4-6, Christmas at Old Fort Concho, Education Day on Friday

December 19, Fort McKavett, Bullets and Baubles, Frontier Christmas*

January 16, Fort McKavett, Warm Hearths: Period Cooking/Foodways*

February 6, Fort McKavett, Soft Hands, Rough Lands: Ladies on the Frontier*

March 4, Fort McKavett, Spring Star Party*

March 19, Fort McKavett on Parade: Military Drills and Demo*

March 19, Fort McKavett, Friends of Fort McKavett Annual Meeting*

**THC Historic Sites Event*

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

www.fortmckavett.org

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Friends of Fort McKavett***



President's Message...

October was a month of hustle and bustle for the staff and Friends of Fort McKavett! The Fall Star Party and Archaeology Day was a great success! Astronomers arrived from Houston, Fort Worth, Austin, Hunt, and New Mexico on Thursday bringing 2 ½ inches of rain. That is the most rain during a single night in the 18 years JSCAS has been holding star parties at the fort. Friday night the skies were a little cloudy but the astronomers were able to observe a number of objects. The astronomers enjoyed participating in the flag raising and flag lowering ceremonies on Saturday. Visitors participated in the archaeology activities during the day and several of them joined the astronomers for lunch in the schoolhouse. As the sun set on Saturday, the skies began to clear. 34 visitors had a fabulous time looking through a variety of telescopes and binoculars at planets, galaxies, globular clusters and open clusters.

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Presidents Message Continued...

That same weekend, Fort Griffin was hosting its annual event. Several staff members and numerous Friends supported their very successful event. The following Friday was education day at Fort Stockton!

On November 7th, Fort McKavett will host: Build All Day-Period Carpentry.

Don't forget to put Christmas at Fort Concho on your calendar December 4 -6

Have a Happy Thanksgiving with those you love!

Lisa Lester
President, Friends of Fort McKavett



Fort
McKavett
Site Manager
Cody Mobley
has started a
collection of
vintage
photographs
of Fort
McKavett.
You can see
several of
these on our
Facebook
page.



Fort Stockton Event

Friends of Ft. McKavett attendees: Lee & Shirley Ragan, Joe & Stella Gonzalez. John & Violet Schultz also attended but were there representing Ft. Stanton (NM Territory). Staff Member Larry Trimble from Ft. McKavett. Thanks to Joe Gonzalez for this report.



Fort Griffin Living History Event and Archeology Day



Buffalo Soldiers, Fort McKavett Staff Jay Wright and Fort Lancaster Mgr. Jefferson Spilman setting up their displays on Friday

Fort McKavett Recruiting Station with NCO and Officer ready to sign up new troops



Fort McKavett Frontier Ladies showing their wares

Part of John Cobb's Paleontology and Archeology display set up for students on Education Day



Star Party at Fort McKavett



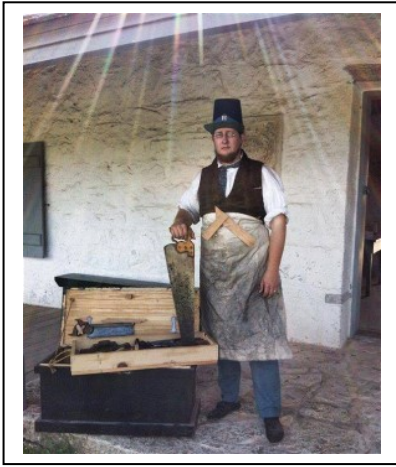
Thanks to Ken and Lisa Lester for this report

We had 2.5" of rain on Thursday night. On Saturday we had a very successful silent auction and a nice brisket dinner furnished by the Friends of Fort McKavett. The astronomers pitched in and helped prepare the meal and helped serve. Saturday night was clear and according to the staff, we had 33 visitors come look through our scopes.



We cleared with donations and the silent auction, appx \$900 that can be used to help pay for the fort's West Texas heritage days

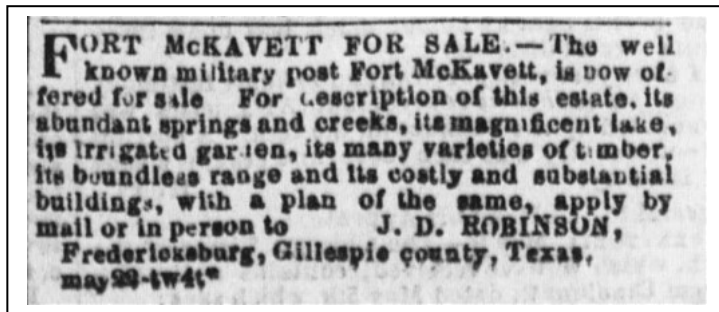
Coming up in November...



Saturday, November 7th, is our carpentry program! We hope that you can join us and help construct furnishings for our barracks using fine and rough carpentry!

No need to bring tools, we'll have everything on hand.

Thank you to all who visited Fort McKavett this past month for our Archeology Day and Star Party on Saturday! Thank you to the astronomers from the Johnson Space Center Astronomical Society for bringing their telescopes up for public viewing!



The Robinson family owned the land being leased by the United States Army that Fort McKavett was constructed on. After being abandoned in 1859, Fort McKavett had an interesting Civil War history: Co. E, 1st Texas Mounted Rifles were stationed here from September 1861-April 1862, it was a temporary POW camp from October 1861-April 1862 for Federal soldiers that didn't meet the May 1 deadline to vacate the state and were surrendered at the Battle of Adams Hill north of San Antonio, and then used sporadically by Texas State Troops until May 1865.

From the Army Cooks Manual

BOILED PUMPKIN OR WINTER SQUASH.

Wash, pare, and cut the pumpkin or squash into pieces and remove the seeds. Soak it in cold water for two hours, then put it into a pot of boiling salt water; cover, and boil until tender throughout. When cooked drain thoroughly and mash it through a colander; season with butter, pepper, and salt. If the pumpkin or squash is too hard to be easily pared, it may be first parboiled.

BAKED WINTER SQUASH.

Small Hubbard squash is best. Saw the squash in halves; scrape out soft part and seeds; put the halves in oven and bake three-fourths of an hour, or until tender; serve in shell, helping from them.

BAKED PUMPKIN OR WINTER SQUASH.

Cut the pumpkin or squash into slices and remove the seeds. Put it into a broad, shallow baking pan, with a very little water; put it in the oven and bake with a gentle heat. It requires a long time to bake, and should be done dry. When baked, season with butter, pepper, and salt. The slices may be pared and put into the baking pan in layers.

BAKED PUMPKIN.

Cut the pumpkin in halves, then quarters; remove the seeds, but not rind; place in baking pan with the rind down, and bake in a slow oven until tender when pierced with a fork. When done serve in rind, helping it by spoonfuls, as you would mashed potatoes.

*Enjoy your Thanksgiving
Holidays and Stay Safe in your
travels...*