

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



# Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers”

Volume 1, Number 5

October, 2002

Information for the newsletter?  
Contact Gabe Schooley at:

John.Schooley@tpwd.state.tx.us

Or by mail at:

Fort McKavett S. H. S.  
P.O. Box 68  
Fort McKavett, Texas 76841



## ***Friends of Fort McKavett***

The Friends Group is now receiving our newsletter as well as the volunteers at Fort McKavett.

We had our annual business meeting on October 5th and several programs were voted on for funding.

We will have a new Refrigerator and Freezer for the Shop Kitchen for use by the Volunteers and for Buddy to use for his big meals.

We passed funding for the March Event, funding for the annual Easter Egg Hunt, funding for postage for the newsletter, and even set aside funding

for Staff members travel to presentations and events when the State has cutbacks.

We had a silent auction for several donated items and raised over \$1500 for the Friends Group to continue these projects.

The existing slate of officers were reelected.

## ***Star Gazers***

Johnson Space Center Astronomical Society had their big star party this weekend also. We had over 30 telescopes on the parade ground, great viewing on Saturday night and visitors driving in from over 100 miles away to view the stars.

*We fed over 120 people on Saturday and had a park full on both days of the weekend.*

*Sunday, we had over 75 visitors to the site. Special thanks go to Dixie, Dale, and Darcy for their assistance with tours. We could not have done it without them...*

*John*

# *Call to Arms...*

## Events For Fort McKavett



October 11-12, Rusk, Pioneer Festival

October 18,19,20, Lone Star Legacy, Fort McKavett Tours

November 1,2, Fort Stockton Living History Days

November 8-11, Fort McKavett for Veteran's Day tours

December 6,7,8, Christmas at Fort Concho

February 14-15, Battleship Texas, U.S.S. Maine Memorial and Living History Timeline

March 21-23, Fort McKavett, West Texas Heritage Days

May 17-18, Texas State Railroad Living History Timeline



Fort McKavett Troopers at Fort Concho, 1999

### *Being Bumped—A Special Announcement*

*130 years ago, it was common practice when an officer transferred to Fort McKavett and had more rank than the officers already on Post, they took over the housing the junior officer had been assigned. This practice was called "Bumping" and still exist at our Post.*

*For Three years, Kent Vining and John Cobb with their wives have furnished Officers Quarters #9 and #10 at no cost to the State. There is no way to know how many people have been on tours through these two buildings, but there have been many. Most seemed to have really enjoyed being able to see something besides wonderful old buildings that stood empty.*

*Now, Texas Parks and Wildlife will furnish these quarters plus #8 and Barracks #4. This will be good for the Park and the Visitors to our Post.*

*The last tours of the buildings will be held during the Veterans Day Weekend and everyone is invited to come out and see them one last time.*

*We will continue to Volunteer for the Site and have enjoyed having been able to "add something" to this important historical site and look forward to many more improvements over the next few years.*

*We would like to thank Buddy, Gabe, and the staff, the Regional Directors, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for allowing us to give back to our favorite Historical Site. Also, we would like to thank all the Volunteers for their support with this project.*

*John and Faye Cobb , Kent and Liz Vining*

*"The cost of furniture in Austin and San Antonio, added to the cost of transportation to the post, makes all such articles excessively dear in price. The great difficulty of getting any lumber to the post but by paying fabulous prices for it, so as to get furniture made here, debar a few officers from being able to have articles of furniture sufficient to give them the feeling of bare respectability in the appearance of their dwellings."*

From the 1874 Hygiene Report to the Surgeon General of the United State Army by the Acting Assistant Surgeon R. Sharpe and Assistant Surgeon S. M. Horton, U. S. Army, Fort McKavett, Texas

**Several reports over the years of Fort McKavett's existence suggest this was an on going problem. The cost of bringing personal items to the Post (over the weight limit set aside for officers) was so much, most did with the bare minimum of home furnishings.**

## Hispanic Soldiers at Fort McKavett

*Rafael Ortiz*

*From Fort Davis Archives*

Rafael Ortiz was twenty-one years old when he enlisted in the U. S. Army.

He was born in Monterrey, Mexico. Ortiz enlisted in San Antonio in July of 1880. An accomplished musician, he was assigned to the *First U. S. Infantry* Band stationed at *Fort McKavett, Texas*.

In March of 1881, the headquarters for the regiment was transferred to Fort Davis. Ortiz was at Fort Davis less than a month when he died of pneumonia. He was buried in the Post Cemetery on April 9, 1881.

---

### U. S. 1st Infantry Regiment Fort McKavett, Texas

C	August 13	1855	March 22	1859
E	August 15	1855	May 26	1858
HQ	August 15	1855	February 20	1858
F	August 28	1858	March 22	1859

*Post Abandoned until after the Civil War*

F, S & B	December 20	1880	February 23	1881
A	January 13	1881	February 23	1881
B	January 13	1881	March 10	1881
D	January 13	1881	February 23	1881
E	January 13	1881	February 23	1881
G	January 13	1881	February 23	1881
H	January 13	1881	March 10	1881
I	January 13	1881	April 20	1881
K	January 13	1881	April 20	1881

## ***Victorian Medical Remedies***

**From the Frontier Ladies School  
Fort McKavett, 2000**

### **Mother's Cough Syrup**

**Half an ounce of Horehound, one ounce of licorice root, and half a tea-cup of Flax-seed. Boil them in three pints of water down to a pint, and sweeten well with honey or loaf sugar, add sufficient spirit to keep it if you please.**

### **Another Cough Syrup**

**Take a small handful of hops and some old field balsam, and some horehound, and make a strong tea; strain and put as much molasses as tea; boil down to about one-half. To be taken before eating and before going to bed.**

### **"Hooping Cough"**

**Dissolve a sample of salts of tartar in a quarter of a pint of water, add to it 10 grains of Cochineal finely powdered, sweeten with loaf sugar or honey until a syrup. This recipe is from an old Scotch Doctor of Concord, N. H.**

### Cold Cure

One ounce each of licorice root, thoroughwort, flax seed, and slippery elm bark. Cut the elm bark and licorice root up fine; mix with the water; steep slowly for ten hours. Strain, and add to the sirup one pound of loaf sugar and one pint of molasses; boil a few minutes and bottle. Take a tablespoonful four times a day.

### Tooth Ache

Two drams of nitrous spirits of ether mixed with 5 drams of alum, reduced to an impalpable powder. Apply on with cotton.

### Gun Powder Burn

For a gunpowder burn, keep the wounds wet with a mixture of linseed oil and lime water for three days, and then apply vaseline to heal.

### A Healing Ointment

parts of beeswax, and mutton tallow; about  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint of the liquid a piece of mutton tallow and beeswax each the size of a hens egg; simmer until the water is out. If a softer ointment is desired, use fresh butter instead of mutton tallow. Here you have a recipe for an ointment which is invaluable as a healing remedy for sores, cuts, chilblains, and sores of all kinds, and especially excellent for burns.

### Neuralgia

A lady who has been troubled with the neuralgia in her head, used a bag of hot oats at night as a pillow. She says: "heat the oats in a kettle over the fire, or in a pan in your oven. I have never been troubled with neuralgia any place but in my head so I cannot say beneficial it would be for neuralgia in other parts of the body." Another cure is drinking hot lemonade.

