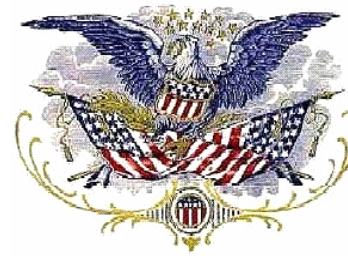


25th Oct

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



Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 2, Number 10

October, 2003

Fort McKavett Town Reunion
Friends of Fort McKavett State Historic
Site Annual Meeting
Johnson Space Center Astronomical Society
Star Party
Saturday October 25, 2003
Make your plans to be at the Fort!!!

Upcoming Events

October 11th, Fort Davis
October 18th, Fort Lancaster
October 25, JSCAS Star Party
October 25, Friends of Fort
McKavett Meeting
October 25, Fort McKavett
reunion
November 8-11, Veterans
Days Tours and Living
History at Post
December 5-7, Christmas at
Fort Concho

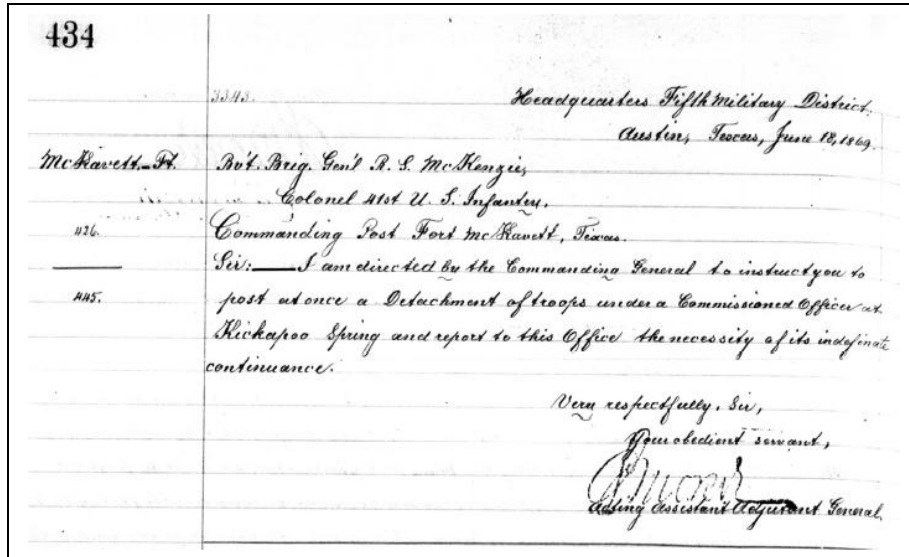
If you are coming to the Fort to help us record the history of the Town of Fort McKavett, and have a small tape recorder, please bring it so we can have enough to go around for everyone. Let Gabe at the Fort know what kind of tape you need and we will have it for you.

Fort McKavett
State Historic Site

From the Archives

Kickapoo Springs, the outpost of Fort McKavett 12 miles north of the Post, was a bone of contention between Fort Concho and Fort McKavett. Each Post Commander thought the other should be responsible for the outpost and use the other's manpower and budget to man the station.

Col. Ranald McKenzie fought Department of Texas suggestions that Fort McKavett was to take responsibility for the stage stop located there. Finally, Col. (Bvt. Brig. General) J. J. Reynolds gave a direct order to McKenzie to take over the operation of Kickapoo Springs on June 18th, 1869.



Above, the written order from J.J. Reynolds to McKenzie to assume responsibility for Kickapoo Springs Station. This was one of many run ins these two men had ending with Reynolds reassignment to the Dept. of the Platt where in 1876, while Cavalry Commander for General Crook, he had a fight with Cheyenne's in January. He was court marshaled for his actions during this fight and soon left the Army. Later that year, McKenzie soon took charge of the Cavalry and had success against the Sioux and Cheyenne Nations, effectively ending the Plains Indian Wars.

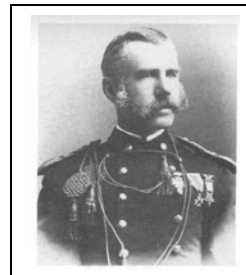
1st Lt. R. G. Carter at Fort McKavett
 March 22, 1873, from his book, "On the Border with Mackenzie"
 With the 4th Cavalry on the way to Fort Clark and the Border

"As we arrived at Fort McKavett, that beautiful little post on the San Saba River, the next day, we encountered another terrific rain storm, which drenched us to the skin. Lt. Col. (Brevet Major General) A. McD McCook, of the Tenth Infantry, commanded the post. He was a distinguished officer of the Civil War and had proved himself to be a most genial host. General Mackenzie joined us here from San Antonio and General McCook prevailed upon him to permit us to remain over for a day or two. Lieut. Jewett, my old friend of the Tenth Infantry, who had accompanied us on our first march from San Antonio in 1870, tendered us his set of quarters, as his wife was then absent at her home in Wisconsin.

General McCook, in behalf of his regiment, gave us "an old fashioned frontier hop" or "baille," with a great dinner and all the trimmings. Everybody well enough to "turn out" attended. It was a revelation how the ladies managed to secure so much finery in such a short time, but we always suspected that most of it was borrowed from their generous hostesses of the Fort McKavett garrison.

After the hop a party gathered in the house of the Adjutant, Lieut. Gibson. It was a convivial party. The song of the "Little Brown Jug" was being sung. Woman's curiosity prompted our better half to cross the next yard and see and hear what was' going on. It was still raining. Gibson's two dogs saw the intruder. They made a break for her and she only escaped them by shutting a gate in their faces and beating a hasty retreat into the borrowed quarters-her curiosity well satisfied.

General McCook wore at the "baille" a great white Mexican sombrero, presented to him by the citizens of Matamoras, with his name heavily embroidered with gold and silver bullion on the brim, and as he danced "La Paloma" with our better half, and that ten gallon hat perched far back on his ears, he looked the part, a genial frontier host and true gentleman."



R.G. Carter on the left, Medal of Honor holder with Company "A", 4th U.S. Cavalry
 Right, Lt. Col. A. McD McCook, 10th Infantry, a Major General in the Civil War, and Brigadier General before retiring.





Fort McKavett Reunion

October 25th, 2003 at Fort McKavett

No Charge to visitors or guests

If you grew up here, come out, or know someone who did, please make sure they know about the Reunion. We want to record everyone's history. In just a few years, nobody will ever know Fort McKavett was a town a lot longer than it was a Military Post.

Don't let this valuable history of our West Texas Heritage be lost!!!

We will have a free lunch for everyone at Noon

We will have a check-in Station set up beside the Schoolhouse and will have volunteers to record everyone's story between 9:00 AM and Noon. Bring your photographs, we will copy them on site so you can take your photos home with you.

Lecture to be given Oct. 25th

Kelley Knight, member of the Johnson Space Center Astronomical and Friend of the Fort, will give a presentation on Saturday, October 25, 2003 entitled, "The Great Nebulae." This talk would have been given by such amateur astronomers E. E. Barnard or Agnes Clerke circa 1890. Come learn about the objects considered to be of a "lucid medium," how the Sun is lit by falling stars plus other astronomical theories of the 1890's, which lead to the birth of a new science called astrophysics.

Kelley's connection to the days of the Frontier Forts is the rescue of her great-great grandmother from an Indian raid circa 1868. Sarah Elizabeth "Sis" Lindsey Harris was washing dishes outside of the Old Ledbetter Salt Works with her sister on the banks of Hubbard Creek near Albany when a Comanche brave plucked up the five year-old by her long hair. Nep Thornton shot the Indian dead before Sis was carried off. One of the bloodiest Indian battles shortly ensued. The Indians were overwhelming the small outpost of Camp Salmon, which was assigned to protect the salt mine, and they sent for the cavalry from newly founded Ft. Griffin. Sis survived the ordeal to marry one of the men of the saltworks, Pete Harris. He later became a Texas Ranger in the Palo Pinto County area. They had 12 children. The barely five-foot woman died in 1956 at the young age of 93.

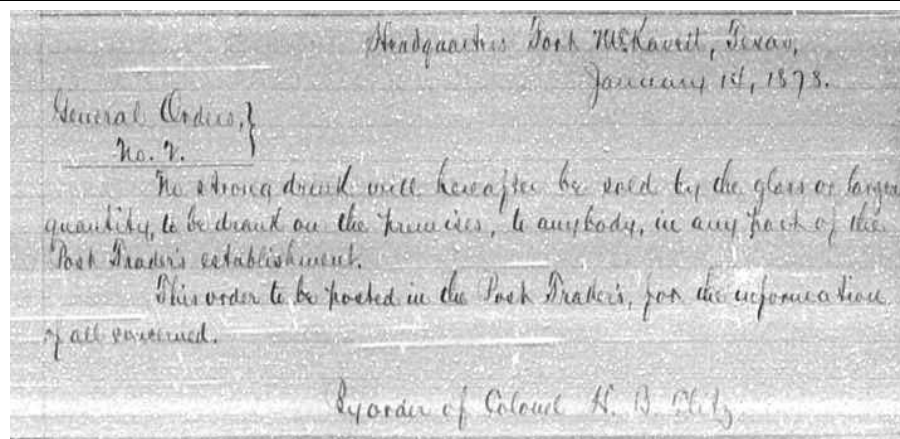
There will be several lectures during Saturday afternoon. Plan to hear them and enjoy the presentations by the JSCAS.



Left: Site Manager Buddy Garza cooking for the Docent Class in September. Thanks to him and his wife, Ms. B, we all gained weight over the weekend...Thank you Buddy!

If you have an article for the Fort McKavett Gazette, send them to John Cobb or Gabe Schooley so they can be placed in the newsletter!!!

A Tough Order in January 1878 by Col. Clitz



"No strong drink will hereafter be sold by the glass or larger quantity, to be drunk on the premises, to anybody, in any part of the Post Sutlers establishment. This order to be posted in the Post Trader's, for the information of all concerned,"

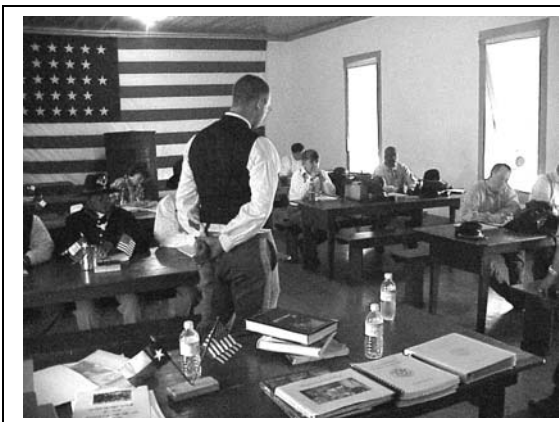
Water Cistern at the Hospital



Under the porch boards at the rear of the Hospital, the staff of Fort McKavett SHS found a water well or cistern, 17 deep and full of water. Note the fill line on the upper left that still has water coming into the cistern.

Research has started on this find (or rediscovery) of the well at the Hospital. New information will be available as soon as we can document where it came from and what the uses were. This will take some time to find.

Fort McKavett's First Docent Class



Left: Gabe Speaking to some of our First Docent Class on September 13, 2003. 18 People were Certified by TPWD and the Buffalo Soldier Program as Docents at Fort McKavett State Historic Site

Fort McKavett Certified our First Docents in our Class this September. Certified as Docents by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the TPWD Buffalo Soldier Regiment are:

John Cobb, John Schultz, Matt Weeks, Horace Williams, Ephriam Dickson, Randy Cobb, Marilyn Wheless, Col. Richard R. McTaggart, Richard J. Lyon, Lee Abram, Elmer N. Sweat, Wendell Prince, Darcy Maloney, Dale Werner, and of course, the Staff of Fort McKavett State Historic Site. These people will represent the Fort at both our site and any off site events and exhibits.

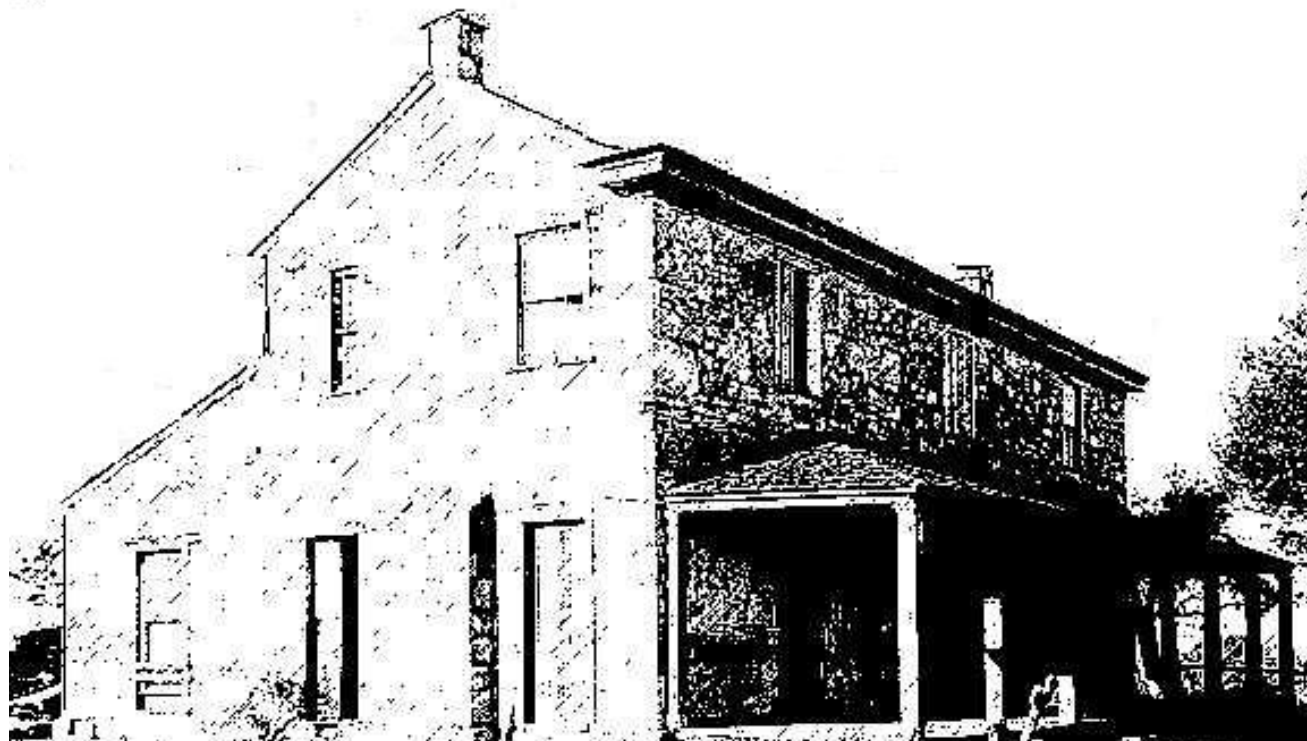
A second class will be held in April. As soon as there is a date set, we will publish it.

Graduates were trained in TPWD Safety, History of the Fort, Library Research, Golf Cart Safety (only these people will be using the Golf Carts now), and of course the Buffalo Soldier Program.

Each person graduating received Certificates from the Post and from the Buffalo Soldier Regiment. The classes lasted 16 plus hours with some folks working extra hours learning some of the research tools we have available.

Right: Buffalo Soldier Program training was presented by TPWD's Ken Pollard of Austin.





1937 Photograph of the Commanding Officers Quarters

A Special Invitation

Fort McKavett was a town a lot longer than
an Army Fort...

Help us save this History before it's too late. If you lived at Fort McKavett, have photographs, or knew the people who lived there, come to the Fort on October 25th, 2003 for a reunion of former Citizens. There will be volunteers on site to record your family history, copy any photographs you have (we will copy them on site, so you get them back right away) and place these memories in our Fort McKavett Research Library.