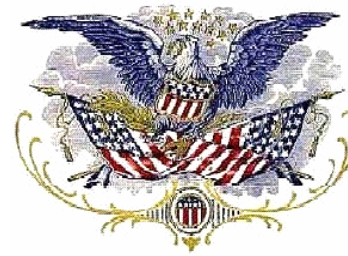


Fort McKavett State Historical Site
P. O. Box 68
Fort McKavett, Texas 76841



Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

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Oct 13th, Star Party at Fort McKavett, Fort McKavett town reunion, Friends of Fort McKavett annual meeting.

Oct 12-13, “Fort Griffin Living History Days” *Note: This is Fort Griffin’s 140th anniversary and their first event in a couple of years.*

Dec 7-9, “Christmas at Old Fort Concho”, San Angelo

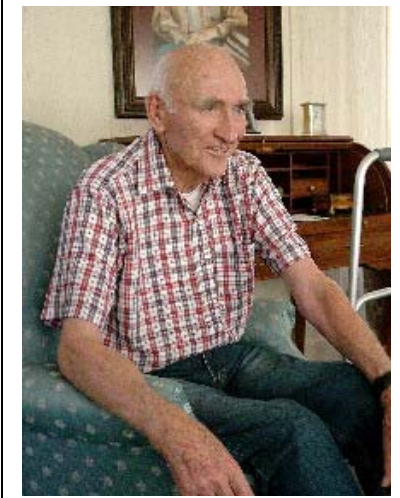
Mar 28 & 29 2008, Fort McKavett Education day and West Texas Heritage Day



Color Copies of all the Fort McKavett Gazette's can be found at:

www.fortmckavett.org

October Event is here...



Col. McTaggart is doing well and resting at home. He will try to make it to the Reunion, Star Party and Friends Meeting, but will have to wait and see how his recovery goes.

This year, we will be having a grand opening of the new interpretive signs and giving tours of the buildings. Make your plans to be there. The silent auction is firming up and looks to be really good this year. Everyone needs to come!

New Storage Building for the Post



We have a new building on site now for storage of equipment. As of the writing of this article, the staff was building a ramp so lawnmowers, etc. could be stored in the new building. It is located in the maintenance area and is a welcome edition.



New Additions for the Library

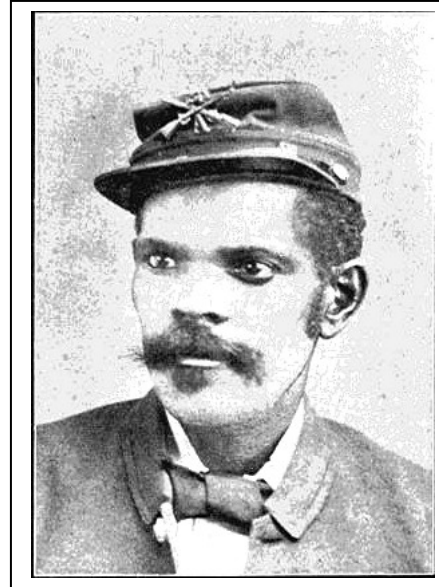
We have tripled the size of our Electronic Library. You can find information about the Indian Wars Army, the Buffalo Soldiers, and Fort McKavett on 241 plus volumes worth of manuals and other documentation. To use this resource, contact the Post and set up a time with the Staff. Mass reproductions are not available, but for a small printer fee, pages can be copied for your research.



Ranger Ken Lester is working on updating the photographs on the nature trail at Fort McKavett. This set will include the wildlife and the flora. They are looking at changing the types of displays so they don't fade or deteriorate with weather.

The photograph above is of two burrowing owls taken at Fort McKavett's Barracks No. 1 about five years ago by John Cobb

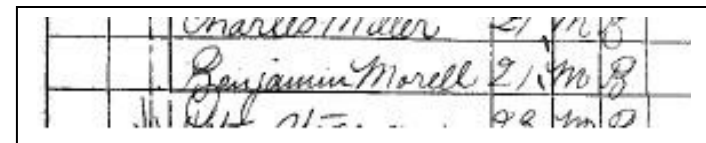
Meet the Soldiers at Fort McKavett



A veteran of both the 9th U.S. Cavalry and the 25th Infantry, Sgt. Benjamin F. Morrell took part in several Indian encounters while he was assigned to Company "F" at Fort McKavett. After transferring to the 25th, he first served at Fort Concho with Company "A". While at Fort Concho, he was promoted Corporal and was the acting Post Quartermaster Sgt. He was promoted to Sgt Major of the Regiment in 1882. He later became the first Black Ordnance Sgt. in the Army.

While at Fort McKavett, he served under Sgt. Stance and Sgt. Wilkes in Captain Henry Carroll's Company "F". He took part in the action that Sgt. Stance was awarded the Medal of Honor. After the fighting and rounding up the stock in question at Kickapoo Spring, he wrote: *"Bright and early the next morning we started with our prize on the return trip to Fort McKavett, which point we reached early in the afternoon without incident and turned over to the government officer thirty-seven horses to be added to Uncle Sam's wealth, and for which Sergt. Stance was voted a medal of honor by congress."*

Sgt. Morrell retired in 1887 at the highest rank for an enlisted man (Ordnance Sgt.).



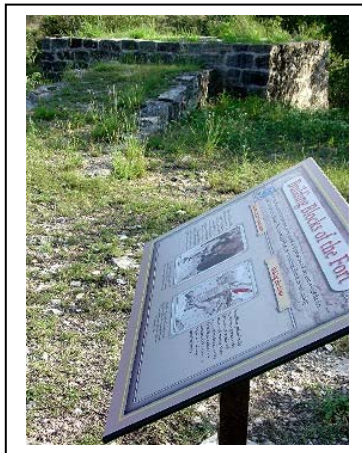
1870 Census from Menard County, Texas showing Morrell note the misspelling of his name, this was common at the time.



Some of the New Interpretive Signs



Barracks signs on sleds where they can be moved for events



The Lime Kiln has new interpretive signs as does the springs and some of our buildings. Make sure to make time to see these at this year's October Event!

This sign is on the trail going to the springs. All of these signs help visitors understand what they are seeing at the Post.



All the springs are running...



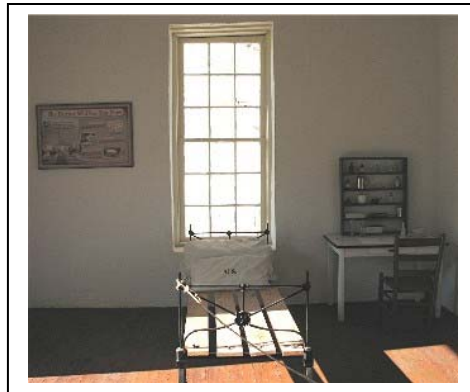
Having had over 39 inches of rain this year, all the springs at McKavett are running and bubbling. Take some time to see this. Even the upper tank is holding water (photo below). This is the first time in years we have had all three springs running.



The Dead House Lives Again...



Left: Coffins in the dead house are part of the new displays at Fort McKavett. There are more goodies on the way for this room.



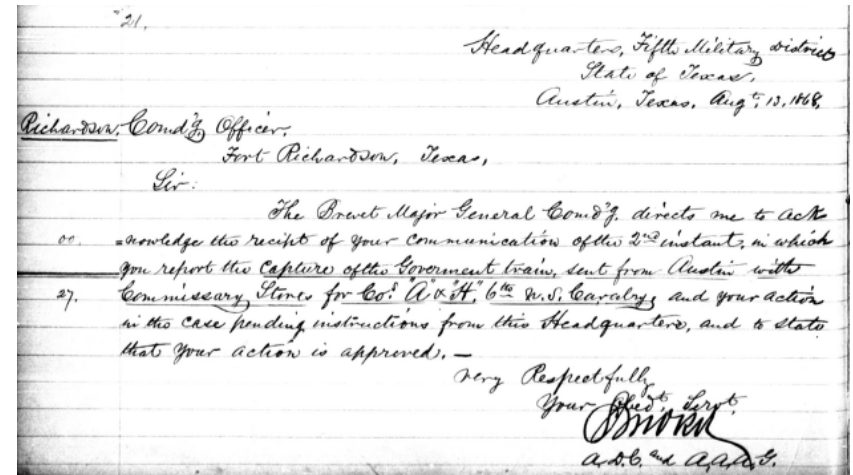
Right: Part of the Medical Displays in the Medical Storage area. Note the signs explaining to visitors what they are viewing.



The Sinks are now open at the Hospital for visitors to view. Remember, there were Officers Sinks and Enlisted Men's sinks. The Officers side is the one on display.

These and several more areas are open to visitors now. Make sure when you come to the Post this October to see everything. The "grand opening" of these displays will be on October 13th during our October Event!

1868 Were Dangerous Times



In this 1868 letter from the Department of Texas Adjutant General in Austin, a wagon train of commissary supplies for two Companies of the 6th Cavalry was lost to bandits between San Antonio and Fort Richardson.

This was a common problem for the Government trains with so many bandits, Mexicans, Indians and former Confederates throughout the state.

That is why so many people were stationed at Fort McKavett so they could escort trains (wagon) and mail routes in the area.



October 13th, 2007

Star Gazing Party, Friends of Fort McKavett
Annual Meeting and Fort McKavett town reunion

Starts at 8:00 AM and lasts until ???

Noon meal provided by Friends of Fort McKavett,
Silent Auction, Guided Tours of the Post, Grand
Opening of Our New Exhibits and Interpretive
Guide-Signs