

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



Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 8, Number 10

October, 2009



October 10-12, Fort Griffin Days
October 10-17, Fort Lancaster trail
ride from Fort Lancaster to Fort
Stockton
October 17, Friends of Fort
McKavett annual meeting at Fort
McKavett
October 17, Fort McKavett Fall Star
Party
October 17, Fort Stockton 150th
Anniversary
December 4-6, Christmas at Old
Fort Concho
March 13, Fort McKavett Spring
Star Party
March 26 - 27, Fort McKavett
"West Texas Heritage Days"
Education Day on Friday
May 21-22, Fort Lancaster Living
History Days. Education Day on
Friday

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

www.fortmckavett.org



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

Notes from the Post...

October looks like it is going to be a very busy month on our schedule. Please keep in mind our annual Friends of Fort McKavett meeting on the 17th. We have some important business to discuss and vote on. We will also be electing officers to serve over the next 12 months.

I don't think anyone will go away hungry from our lunch that day either. It's almost worth the trip to McKavett just for the food.

Fort Griffin's Living History Days are this month as well. I am anxious to see what Mitch and his staff has been able to do in the last year.

We will see you on the trail!

John Cobb
President
Friends of Fort McKavett

Fort McKavett Commissary Sgt Quarters

Authority		Instructions		Description No Construction Report No.	Estimated Cost	Book Value	Remarks	
No.	Date	To Whom	Date				Actual Cost	Date
Dec of Gen	July 7/74	Col. Rankin	July 9/74	Repairs	10,163.31	2684 of 100	1,014.31	July 10, 1874 Col. Rankin
Do	July 2/74	Do	July 16/74	04. buy materials	257.67	11966 of 100	257.67	July 7, 1874 Do.
Do	Aug 20/74	Do	Sept 2/74	House repairs	897.35	3299 of 100	327.35	Sept 28, 1874 Temp House
Do	Nov 23/74	Do	Nov 6/74	Repairs	315.00	3277 of 100	315.00	Nov 23, 74 Do.
Do	Nov 16/74	Mr. Leland	Nov 27/74	Construction	212.74	11455 of 100	212.74	Dec 11, 1874 Do.

The bottom line of the Quartermaster Reports for Fort McKavett's buildings shows a cost of \$ 212.74 for the construction of a new Commissary Sgt. Quarters in 1875.



Left: the Commissary Sgt Quarters at Fort McKavett is a good example of Senior Sgt's Quarters in the Indian Wars Army. It is a two room building heated by a wood burning stove with room for the Sgt and his family.

Texas Buffalo Soldier's Ken Pollard Pulls His Weight

Right: Ken Pollard is shown assisting during the photo shoot at Fort Lancaster. The photographs of the Stagecoach were taken so they showed the reigns but not him since we didn't have mules. The opportunity was just too tempting to pass up!



Over the next several issues, we will be showing photographs from the photo shoot at Fort McKavett, Fort Lancaster and Fort Stockton taken in September to highlight the new "Buffalo Soldier Heritage Trails", a joint project by Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Historical Commission, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Friends of Fort McKavett.

From the Archives

W. H. HELM.

APRIL 6, 1880.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. McCook, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 4070.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4070) for the relief of William H. Helm, Twenty-second United States Infantry, submit the following report:

Sergeant Helm served when a young man, during the last year of the civil war, in the Confederate army. In 1876 he enlisted in the Seventh United States Cavalry, and served with that command in the Yellowstone and Nez Perce campaign at Canyon Creek, Montana, and against the Indians under Chief Joseph. He was discharged in April, 1878, with an excellent character. In July, 1878, he enlisted in the Twenty-second United States Infantry, and is now a corporal in Company B of that regiment, stationed at Fort McKavett. Texas. He has filed with his other papers a request to be relieved of the disabilities imposed by section 1218, Revised Statutes, and in consequence of his long, gallant, and faithful service in the Army of the United States, your committee recommend the passage of the bill.

NAME OF SOLDIER	Helm, William H.			
DATE OF SERVICE	Class	APPLICANT NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED
	Infantry	51,254		Miss
DATE OF FILING	Class	APPLICANT NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED
11-23-77	Infantry	51,254		Miss
ATTORNEY				
REMARKS				

William H. Helm was awarded his Medical Discharge in 1880 and retired. He lived until 1929 and on his death, his wife put in for Widow's benefits for both his Civil War and Indian Wars Service.

He took part in a lot of history during his lifetime.

Annual Friends of Fort McKavett Meeting and Star Party



The Texas Historical Commission and Fort McKavett State Historic Site wish to invite you to attend our fall star party the evening of October 17th, weather permitting. Members of the Johnson Space Center Astronomical Society will have their telescopes set up on the fort's parade ground. Their advanced amateur telescopes along with Fort McKavett's dark skies give some of the best views of star clusters, nebulas, and galaxies available in the country.

The Friends will be hosting their annual BBQ luncheon at noon in the post school house. Members of the Friends and other participants are requested to bring side dishes and desserts. The brisket, sausage, chicken, goat, pinto beans, ice tea, and bread will be provided by the Friends. Donations to cover the cost of the food are encouraged. There will be a silent auction during the meal and ending just before the annual meeting. Please call the fort if you have items to donate to the silent auction. Following the meal, the Friends will be holding their annual meeting. This is an important meeting that will be considering some changes to our by-laws.

There will be a presentation on the Moon starting at 4 p.m in the fort's school house. The star party starts at dark. Please park in the fort's parking lot and bring a flashlight.

Red cellophane will be available to cover your flashlight as white light will ruin your night vision and is not permitted. Admission is free after 5 p.m.

Fort McKavett Crew in Photo Shoot



Fort McKavett's Cody Mobley and Jay Wright join Fort Lancaster's Jeremy Lumpkins in the joint Texas Historical Commission and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department photo shoot at Fort Lancaster and Fort Stockton in September



McKavett and Fort Stockton Infantry at Fort Stockton



Mike Calcote presents Buddy and Russell with a check for the Friends of Fort McKavett

Schleicher County Rodeo Association made a very generous donation to the Friends of Fort McKavett.

On June 27, 2009 the rodeo association hosted a historic trail ride that began in Schleicher County at the Figure Three Ranch and stopped at the Six Mile Ranch and ended at Fort McKavett State Historic Site. The area riders learned how trail riders of our past rode from waterhole to waterhole along the tributaries, headwaters and main stream of the San Saba River. Once they arrived at Fort McKavett they were treated to a meal served from a chuck wagon. This organization hosts rodeos and ropings in Eldorado and use their proceeds for contributions to such worthwhile groups as the Girl and Boy Scouts, Meals on Wheels and our Friends group.



Right: 1890 Photograph of Fort McKavett after the Army had left.

New Shop for Fort McKavett



Fort McKavett State Historic Site's new shop building

Texas Historical Commission has purchased the Stokes Wool Warehouse across from the main entrance of Fort McKavett. This building will become the new maintenance center for the site.

At this time, the Staff is cleaning and preparing the building for use. Plans are underway to maximize the usage of the building.

There is potentially room for all our vehicles, tractors, mowers, and equipment to be stored in the building. This should extend the life of our equipment since it will be in a weather controlled area.

This is a great addition to our Fort and will pay off in many areas.

In coming months, we will keep you updated on the move to this building and the multiple uses for it. The next time you come to the Fort, take a look at our new shop.

Well done THC!!!