

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



Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers”

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Information for the newsletter?
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*1876 view of the Senior
Officer's Parade Ground
From the Research Center*

Above is one of the images that you can find in the archives in the research center. This center contains information on the Buffalo Soldiers, Fort McKavett and the Army during that period. Come out and browse !!!



Staff Members Johnny and Alfredo repairing a water main break in August.

As most of you know already, the main reason we need Volunteers at Fort McKavett is to assist in the day to day operations of the Site.

Maintenance is a full time job for the Staff. There are always jobs waiting such as mowing, painting, cleaning, repairing water supplies, the operation of the visitors' Center, the new Library, tours for the public and other jobs that need assistance. Please help where you can.

Call to Arms...

Events For Fort McKavett



September 21-22, Fort Griffin Living History Event

October 5,6, EXPO in Austin at TPWD Headquarters

October 4,5,6, Friends Meeting at Fort McKavett, 30 Boy Scouts, Johnson Space Center Star Gazers

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



The Conference Room in the new Library



Headquarters Building at Fort McKavett

Location of the Post Library

According to the Surgeon's Annual Report in 1874, Acting Assistant Surgeon R Sharpe and Assistant Surgeon S.M. Horton, the Post Library was located in the Schoolroom in the Headquarters Building until the new Schoolhouse was finished in 1876. This library was used by the enlisted men after regular work hours. A copy of this report is on file in the Research Library.



More History of the Fort and the area will be in upcoming editions of the Fort McKavett Gazette.

If you have anything you want to add to the newsletter, contact Gabe at the Fort.

The Johnson Space Center Astronomical Society

Submitted by Lisa Lester



Fort McKavett Touring the Past and the Future

The Johnson Space Center Astronomical Society (JSCAS) is an organization for amateur astronomers. While it is associated with NASA, membership is open to anyone who has an avid interest in the study of astronomy. The Society holds monthly meetings where presentations are given on a wide variety of astronomical topics. Club members also travel to schools to give presentations. JSCAS members bring their binoculars and telescopes to public star parties that they host in several locations in the bay area throughout the year. Club members explore a wide variety of subjects within the field of astronomy. These subjects include telescope building, CCD imaging, mirror cleaning, eclipse watching, planetary studies, and satellite observing.

Lisa is not only a member of the JSCAS, but is also the Secretary of the Friends of Fort McKavett group. She has been a strong supporter of the site for several years. She and her husband live near NASA and come out to the post several times a year.



STAR PARTY, GUIDED TOURS OF THE FORT, FRIENDS GROUP MEETING OCTOBER 4-5, 2002

A Wedding Trip to Fort McKavett

Ord, Edward Otho Cresap, Jr., Cal. Tex. Cadet naval academy 18 Sept 1875 to 20 June 1876. 2nd Lt. 22 Inf. 1 Sept 1879; 1st Lt. 2 June 1889; Capt. 26 Apr 1889; tr to 27 Inf. 3 May 1902.

Mary Frances Norton

Born 1857 in Refugio, Texas. Married Edward Otho Cresap Ord, Jr. 9 Oct 1879.

Mrs. Ord was in her seventies when she wrote the story of her "Wedding Trip".

A WEDDING TRIP IN 1879

BRIDE: MARY FRANCES NORTON

GROOM 1ST LIEUT. E. O. C. ORD JR.

This morning I received word of the marriage of one of my sons (Major James Garesche Ord) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and of his wedding journey in an automobile, stopping at good hotels with all modern conveniences. I could not help comparing it to the wedding journey of my husband and self so many years ago.

We were married in San Antonio, Texas on 9 October 1879 at eleven o'clock in the morning. After a breakfast of wild turkey, southern baked ham, fried chicken, beaten biscuits, coffee and cakes, we started for my husband's first station, Fort McKavett, Texas.

We were accompanied as far as Boerne by my husband's parents, Mrs. Ord and General E. O. C. Ord, and my mother (widow of Judge Charles Gilman Norton) and sister Ellen Ann (later wife of Lt. Col.' Charles G. Starr). Boerne was 15 miles away. We drove in a Daugherty. We left San Antonio about 1:00, and reached Boerne at 4:00 p. m.

At Boerne we met the escort which consisted of one hundred recruits, and the 10th Cavalry Band. A tent had been pitched for us.

After supper the band played lively music, and our dear ones left, to return to San Antonio.

We left Boerne about 6:00 o'clock the next morning and traveled only until noon, my husband marching with the men. We made camp and stayed the rest of the day. Reveille sounded the next morning at 3:30 a.m.

After a breakfast of coffee, bacon, eggs, and biscuits cooked in a Dutch oven, the bugle sounded, and the march began, ending that same morning at ten. Thus we put in six hours every day, always traveling these same hours to avoid the great heat.

Lieutenant Maxon was in command of the escort. Lieutenant Duvell (the late general) also was with us, on his way to the 25th Infantry, at Fort Stockton.

The third day out Lieutenant Maxon ordered the driver of our 4 mule wagon to keep close to the marching men, as we were now in Indian country. Our slow tedious trip went on, my husband always marching with the men. The fifth day out, we reached a sheep herder's camp to find them in great sorrow. The son and daughter had been killed a few days before, and scalped by the Indians, within sight of the parents. They had been herding the sheep.

After 10 days, we camped near a Mexican freighter's camp, the wagons being drawn by oxen. There were two Mexican women in the outfit. I took over to them some cake and candy, given by friends when leaving home. Later as we sat down to supper, one of the women came over with chili-con-carne and tortillas. I have never tasted anything so good, after days of canned food.

A few days before we reached our post. Lieutenant Duvall said, "This is my 21st birthday". I brought out a fruit-cake made by my friend Mary Baker, and we celebrated his birthday.

After traveling 15 days, we reached Fort McKavett. The monotonous trip was over--breaking camp before 5 to avoid the great heat, going into camp about 11:00 a.m., and traveling over a cactus country.. There Colonel David Stanley was in command of the 22nd Infantry.

As we drove into the post, Lieutenant Crittenden met us and said, "Ord, you are to go with me and my company out after Indians at once. Your wife can have my quarters until we return".

They started out at once, and I was left alone in my first post, not knowing a soul.

The windows of the house were so high, I had to stand on a chair to see out.. (This was to prevent the Indians from firing arrows in). I can never describe my feeling of homesickness, when I walked Lieutenant Webster and his wife, who took me home for supper.

The supper began a beautiful friendship with Mrs. Webster, who is still my dearest friend, and it was my first meal in the 22nd Infantry.

We remained in the 22nd Infantry 20 happy years.

