

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



# Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 7, Number 9

September, 2008



**Oct 10-12**, Fort Griffin Days, Fort Griffin. Education Day on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup>  
**Oct 4-5**, TPWD EXPO/Buffalo Soldier Program  
**Oct 25**, Friends of Fort McKavett Meeting and Public Star Party  
**Dec 5-7**, Christmas at Old Fort Concho, San Angelo. Education day on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup>  
**Feb 14-15** (2009), Battleship Texas Time Line (Remember the Maine), Houston  
**March 21** (2009), Public Star Party  
**March 27-28** (2009), Fort McKavett, West Texas Heritage Days, Education Day on Friday  
**April 17-18** (2009), Fort Richardson Days, Education Day on Friday  
**April 25** (2009), Mission Tejas Folk Festival, Mission Tejas State Park

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

[www.fortmckavett.org](http://www.fortmckavett.org)



TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

[www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us)

## A Note from the President

We have a short breather this month compared to the rest of the year. We still have our annual Friends Meeting, Fort Griffin, Texas Parks and Wildlife's EXPO, and Fort Concho to go the rest of this year.

I have had the honor of being involved with Fort McKavett since the mid-1960's and have never seen the site look as clean and sharp as it is now. A couple of months ago, I had the opportunity to give testimony before the House Committee that oversees our site and told them the same thing. This is because of funding, a full staff, and most importantly, a dedicated and responsible staff who take pride in our post.

Please join with me in thanking them for their hard work and diligence.

**John Cobb**  
President  
Friends of Fort McKavett



*Fort McKavett has always been a show place of the Texas Forts, but with the new crew, we have made great headway in cleaning and restoring the grounds. In this photo above, taken from behind the location of the mess halls and kitchens, you can see where all this work has really paid off in showing off our post!*

## *From the Army Cookbook:*

MANUAL FOR ARMY COOKS.

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### SCRAMBLED EGGS.

Break twelve eggs into a bowl or deep dish. Heat in a frying pan a piece of butter a little larger than an egg. When this is hot pour in the eggs, and at once stir them with a spoon from the bottom for fully three minutes, or until they become coagulated, seasoning with pepper and salt while cooking. When cooked turn them out into a hot dish or upon toasted bread.

Chopped parsley, sweet herbs minced, cooked ham or tongue, or chipped dried beef may be added to the seasoning.

**When was Yellow instead of Blue assigned to the Cavalry for their Regimental Colors? We found this in the 1886 Annual Report from the Secretary of War to the United States Congress:**

#### COLORS AND GUIDONS.

The silken colors and guidons issued to regiments and companies since the war were from the stock left on hand at its close. They have become deteriorated from storage, rendering them unfit for issue. They were painted, and upon exposure to the air cracked and were found to be totally unfit for issue. The regulations for the Army provide that the colors and guidons be embroidered, and all those issued during the last fiscal year have been made in accordance therewith. They are of exquisite and most artistic workmanship. Suitable cases to protect them when not in use are furnished with each set. The guidons for cavalry, under authority of the Secretary of War, after approval by the Lieutenant-General, have been changed to what they were previous to the late war, viz, two horizontal stripes, each one-half the width of the flag, the upper red and the lower white, with the letters of the troop and number of the regiment suitably inscribed thereon. The guidons for artillery have not been changed.

The regimental colors for artillery, after consultation with regimental commanders, and by direction of the Secretary of War, were changed from yellow to scarlet, the latter being the designating color of the artillery arm of the service.

The standards for cavalry regiments have, up to the present, been made upon a ground-work of blue silk, which is also used for regimental colors of infantry. Orders have been given to prepare a suitable sample made of yellow silk, the designating color of cavalry. As soon

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#### REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

as some minor details in the arrangement of the design shall have been effected, final action will be taken by the honorable the Secretary of War. Markers and general guides, made of silk, have also been adopted for foot regiments; they conform in design to the national color. The former, with the numbers of the regiments in block letters, have a spike of ash 8 feet long with a spear-head and ferrule, while the general guides are trimmed with yellow fringe and fastened to rods of brass tubing, nickel-plated, to fit the muzzle of the gun.

*This means the Colors used at Fort McKavett by our Cavalry Regiments were the older Civil War Style Blue Silk. The 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Colors at right are on display at the Bob Bullock Museum in Austin*



## Work Continues on the Site...



*Over the years, one of our reoccurring problems we have faced at Fort McKavett has been the breaking of the water line going to the water fountain in the picnic area at the visitor's parking lot. This has been caused by freezing lines, being hit by mowers, and shifting grounds. This last month, the staff at the post has removed the old fountain and installed a water spigot instead. This should help alleviate a lot of maintenance problems for the staff and visitors to the site. For those of you who have not had a chance to come to the site over the last several months, you will be surprised at the progress made by our staff in simplifying problem areas all over the grounds. This makes for a more pleasing site for visitors as well as lowering some of the high maintenance areas we have had in the past.*



**Fort McKavett's wagons will be at Texas Parks and Wildlife's EXPO again this year highlighting the Buffalo Soldier Programs. This will be held October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.**

## From the Archives...

### The Hand Salute

*Salute with the Hand.*

29. 1. *Right (or Left) Hand*, 2. **SALUTE.** Raise the right hand smartly till the forefinger touches the lower part of the head-dress above the right eye, thumb and fingers extended and joined, palm to the left, forearm inclined at about forty-five degrees, hand and wrist straight. (TWO.) (Par. 48.) Drop the arm quietly by the side. (See Par. 485.)  
If uncovered, the forefinger touches the forehead above the eye.



Pl. 1, Par. 29.

*From the 1880 Army Regulations Book on file at the Fort McKavett Post Library and Research Center.*



## Texas Forts Trail Annual Meeting

Buddy Garza and Chris Fischer attended the Texas Forts Trail Annual Meeting held at Fort Chadbourne on August 27. There was a large representation from most of the sites and cities involved with the TFT. Among the topics was the annual budget. TFT was required to raise a minimum of \$5,000. They actually raised \$24,000 in cash contributions and \$7,000 of in-kind contributions. Other topics included an upcoming listening, learning, and planning session with the Texas Historical Commission and the 150th Anniversary of the Butterfield Overland Mail Stagecoach. The meeting was a great success that showed the promise of great things for the Forts Trail in the New Year.



*The Staff Continues to Cross-Train:  
Office manager Nancy Jacoby learns how to operate  
the site's Grasshopper Lawnmower!*

## News of our Volunteers...



Lt. Col. Darcy Maloney has been stationed in Djibouti since January of this year. Her tour should end sometime in October. She is working at a Joint Command Center with all branches of the Services and has had a chance to get out and see some of the country. Dale and Oliver just returned from a trip to Africa where Darcy got to join them on a photographic Safari in Southern Africa. We are all waiting on her to return and see some of the photographs she has been able to take during her time in Africa.

## New Acquisition for the Museum

*Thanks to the generous help of the Friends of Fort McKavett, the museum now has a high quality reproduction of the Model 1851 Shako. Original shakos are almost non-existent and to obtain this exact copy is a great opportunity for the site. This item became available from motion picture costumer Mike Boyd and because of its historical significance to Fort McKavett; the Friends purchased it for our display.*

*This cap was adopted by the United States Army in 1851 and during W.G. Freeman's inspection of the 8th Infantry soldiers at Fort McKavett on August 19, 1853 he notes: "...four companies turned out with the full dress of the old pattern with the new caps and pompoms, and the fifth company (H) in the old undress with the new caps without pompoms."*



*Thus all five of the founding companies of Fort McKavett wore this type of cap making it a vital artifact in interpreting the various American Soldiers who served at the post.*