

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



Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 10, Number 9

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Fort McKavett Upcoming Events

Sept 17, Caprock Canyons S.P.
Release of Bison Herd

Oct 7-8, Fort Griffin Living
History Days, Education Day on
Friday*

Oct 15, Fort Day at Fort Stockton

Oct 29, Fort McKavett Fall Star
Party*

Nov 18-20, Imprisoned on the
Frontier (Civil War 150th
Commemoration Event)*

Dec 2-4, Christmas at Old Fort
Concho, Education Day on Friday.

Mar 23-24, West Texas Heritage
Days, Fort McKavett*

*THC Historic Sites Event

*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 Fort

As you will see in this issue of the Gazette, our staff has been very busy improving the site this summer.

They are also getting ready for a 150th anniversary Civil War event at Fort McKavett.

There have been several wildfires in the area and so far, we have not had any problems on the post. With the ongoing drought, everyone has to stay on their toes to keep a major disaster from happening.

We have several living history events coming up soon. Please make plans to attend when you can to support our volunteers! They give up their time and money to represent our site.

John Cobb
President
Friends of Fort McKavett

From the Army Cooks Manual

BAKED TOMATOES, No. 1.

Wash, peel, and slice the tomatoes; season them with butter, pepper, and salt, and mix thoroughly with enough bread crumbs or rolled cracker to absorb the greater portion of the juice; put the mixture into a baking dish, and bake for three-quarters of an hour or one hour, and serve in the baking dish. Minced onion, raw or fried, may be added to the seasoning.

BAKED TOMATOES, No. 2.

Cut a disk from the stem end of the tomato, take out the core and stuff it with a mixture of bread crumbs, butter, salt, and minced onion, and bake with a moderate heat for one hour.

BOILED TURNIPS.

Time, twenty minutes to an hour.

Wash the turnips; if young, peel them, and if old, pare thickly. Slice or cut them into pieces of uniform size. Soak in cold water for thirty minutes; put them into a pot with enough boiling salt water to cover them plentifully. Cover; boil steadily until quite tender. Drain thoroughly; season with butter, pepper, and salt. If they are boiled with meat, butter may be omitted.

Young turnips may be served whole, with a drawn-butter sauce. Boiled turnips may be mashed and served like Irish potatoes.



Hospital Complex at Fort McKavett

More work at the site...



Rubble pile behind the Field Officers Quarters



The view now

Visitors to the site will be able to walk around the ruins of the Field Officers Quarters and not have to worry about what they might be stepping on. These improvements to Fort McKavett have aided the beauty of the post and made it more welcome to our visitors as well as helped with the day to day maintenance.

We are all waiting to see what the next installment of improvements will bring!

Thanks to the staff for their hard work in this summer's heat!



Imprisoned on the Frontier The 8th US Infantry At Fort McKavett, Winter 1861

Fort McKavett SHS will be holding a living history event the weekend of November 18-20, 2011 commemorating the six month period during the American Civil War that the site was a POW camp. This will be a first person/semi immersion event. Registrations have been coming in from all over the United States and it is shaping up to be a good event.

Guidelines and information can be found on the event website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/imprisonedonthefrontier/home>

Contact Cody Mobley for more info:
cody.mobley@thc.state.tx.us
(325) 396-2358

From the 1857 Army Regulations Manual

PRISONERS OF WAR.

726. . . . Prisoners of war will be disarmed and sent to the rear, and reported as soon as practicable to the head-quarters. The return of prisoners from the Head-Quarters of the Army to the War Department will specify the number, rank, and corps.

727. . . . The private property of prisoners will be duly respected, and each shall be treated with the regard due to his rank. They are to obey the necessary orders given them. They receive for subsistence one ration each, without regard to rank; and the wounded are to be treated with the same care as the wounded of the army. Other allowances to them will depend on conventions with the enemy. Prisoners' horses will be taken for the army.

728. . . . Exchanges of prisoners and release of officers on parole

depend on the orders of the General commanding-in-chief, under the instructions of government.

From the Articles of War, 1857

ART. 56. Whosoever shall relieve the enemy with money, victuals, or ammunition, or shall knowingly harbor or protect an enemy, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as shall be ordered by the sentence of a court-martial.

ART. 57. Whosoever shall be convicted of holding correspondence with, or giving intelligence to, the enemy, either directly or indirectly, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as shall be ordered by the sentence of a court-martial.

ART. 58. All public stores taken in the enemy's camp, towns, forts, or magazines, whether of artillery, ammunition, clothing, forage or provisions, shall be secured for the service of the United States; for the neglect of which the commanding officer is to be answerable.

ART. 59. If any commander of any garrison, fortress, or post shall be compelled, by the officers and soldiers under his command, to give up to the enemy, or to abandon it, the commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers, or soldiers who shall be convicted of having so offended, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as shall be inflicted upon them by the sentence of a court-martial.

As the states began to secede, General David Twiggs met with a trio of Confederate commissioners, including Philip N. Luckett and Samuel A. Maverick, and surrendered his entire Department of Texas command to them. Twiggs subsequently was dismissed from the U.S. Army for "treachery to the flag of his country" He became a Confederate General.

Hard Work at the Post Pays Off!



We are all used to seeing the Commanding Officers Quarters at Fort McKavett with rubble piled up



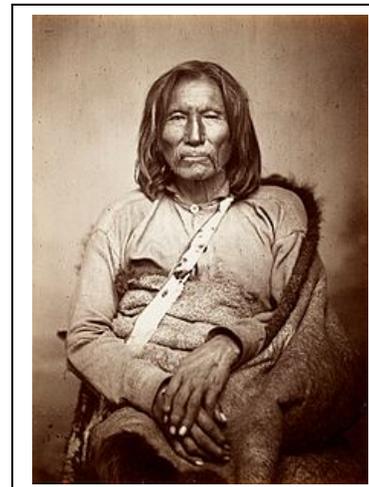
After the staff has worked to remove the debris and cleaned the site of the Commanding Officers Quarters. Quite a difference!



Double Mountain from the North

In a raid made into Texas in 1870, the eldest and favorite son of Satank was killed. With several other young Kiowas he approached a picket farmhouse on the northern Texas frontier. The settlers fired from the shelter of the building. Young Satank sat down suddenly, mortally wounded. His companions fled without him. Then they recovered their pride and rode back to rescue the body. They concealed it among some rocks at Double Mountain

Old Satank went to the scene to recover the remains. Crows and buzzards had reduced them to a heap of bones. When the chief saw what was left of his beloved son, his friends had to tie him with a lariat to prevent him from committing suicide. Then they allowed him to gather the bones, wash them, and bundle them in a new blanket. Satank carried these bones with him wherever he went.



Satank took part in the Warren Wagon Train Massacre and was captured at Fort Sill. He was killed trying to escape as they were leaving the post for Jacksboro and a trial held by citizens.