

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE



Information Guide

FORT MCKAVETT, TEXAS

UNITED STATES ARMY POST

1852-1859 • 1868-1883

FORT MCKAVETT STATE HISTORIC SITE

MARCH 2007



FORT MCKAVETT STATE HISTORIC SITE

A BRIEF HISTORY

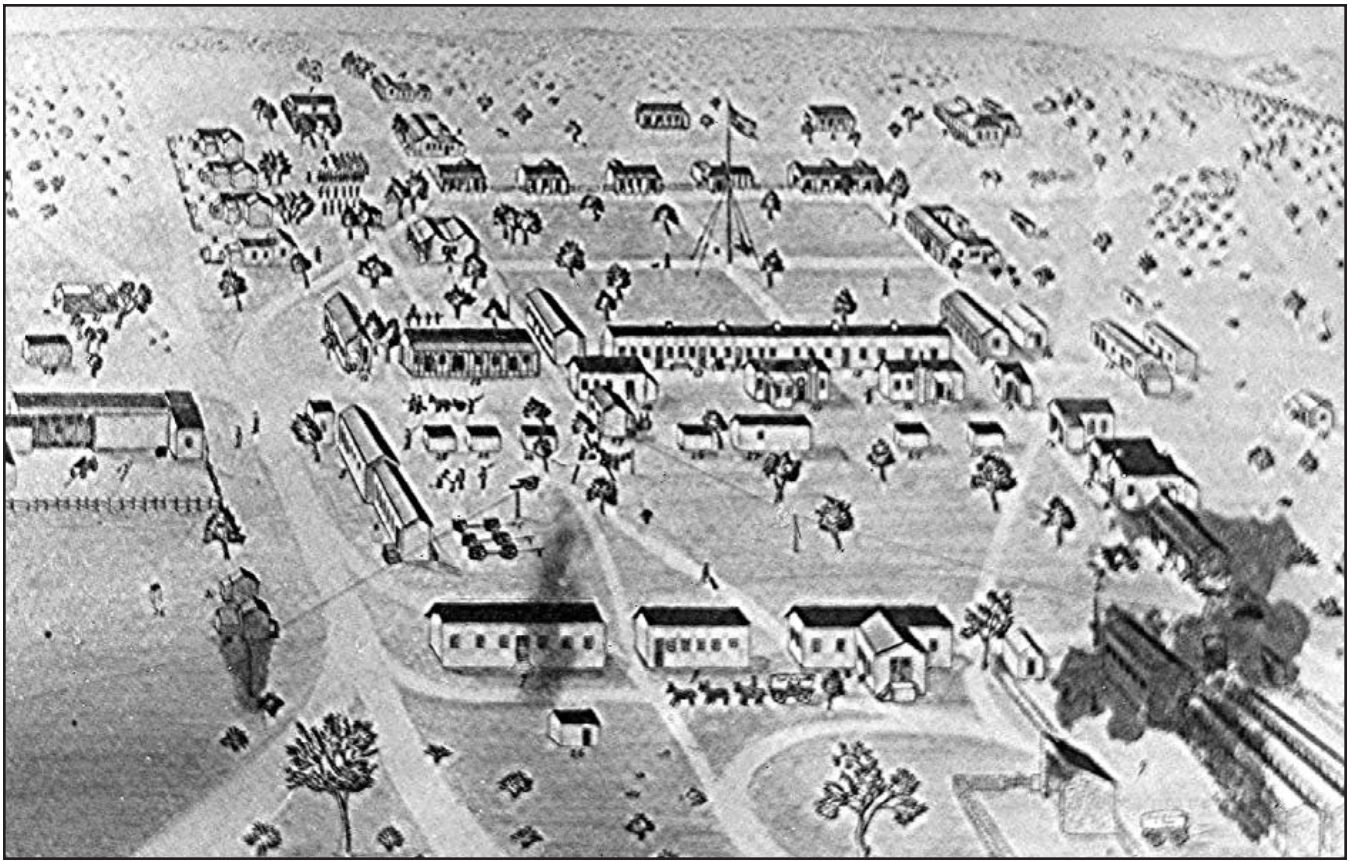
In March 1852, five companies of the 8th Infantry established Camp San Saba at a site overlooking the headwaters of the San Saba River Valley. The objective of the army post was the same as that of other frontier posts in Texas: to protect travelers and settlers along the Upper El Paso Road. Named Camp San Saba for 30 days, it was renamed Fort McKavett in honor of Capt. Henry McKavett, killed at the Battle of Monterrey, Mexico in 1846.

The Fort McKavett site proved to be well chosen. Rolling hills, dotted with trees and wildflowers in all directions, added to the scenery. Beyond the hills were vast, grass-covered plains. The post was located on a high hill, with a small stream feeding into the river less than 500 yards away. Having been described as the “prettiest post in Texas” by Army Gen. William T. Sherman in 1870, the abundance of water added to the convenience and ease of life at the fort. Fort McKavett was, in general, a healthy place to live and was recorded to be a well-ordered and clean post. A tract near the river proved to be an excellent site for the 31-acre garden, providing a wide variety of fresh produce for the fort. Soldiers often added to the food supplies by hunting, fishing, and gathering wild fruits and nuts.

The first official inspection on August 19, 1853, by Col. W.G. Freeman reports that the hospital had treated a total of 1,043 cases—455 for fever, 184 for diseases of the digestive system, and other cases attributed to pulmonary sickness. Patients with scurvy at other forts were sent to Fort McKavett to recover. Surgeon S. Wylie Crawford reported that adding wild lamb lettuce or pokeweed to the soldiers’ diet soon eradicated the disease.

At the height of the Indian Wars, Fort McKavett consisted of six barracks, 12 officers’ quarters; a munitions storage area, hospital, guardhouse, post office and bakery; two storehouses; three stables; the headquarters; and a forage house. Buildings were constructed of limestone, and most had hardwood floors, glazed windows and fireplaces. Fort McKavett supplied other Army posts with quartermaster and subsistence (commissary) items.

From March 1852 to March 1859, and from March 1868 to June 1883, the U.S. Army occupied Fort McKavett with a combination of dragoons,



infantry and cavalry. It was home to units of all four black regiments—the 24th Infantry (reorganized in 1869 under Col. Ranald Mackenzie from the 38th and 41st) and the 25th Infantry, as well as both the 9th and 10th Cavalry regiments.

The post was also home to Company A of the 4th Cavalry on two different occasions. Seven of the officers and enlisted men in Company A, 4th Cavalry, were awarded the Medal of Honor. Other notable Medal of Honor awardees included Sgt. Emanuel Stance of Company F, 9th Cavalry, who was the first black soldier to be awarded the medal after the Civil War. Also, the 41st Infantry's Lt. George Albee, the only member of that regiment to be awarded the Medal of Honor, was assigned to Fort McKavett. Several other soldiers served with distinction and honor while at the post.

In just 269 months, with a nine-year break for the Civil War, these troops witnessed the transformation of West Texas from an unknown wilderness to the ranching center of the West.

The troops provided several important services for the people of West Texas. In addition to guarding the mail routes and performing Native American Indian scouts and expeditions, they recovered stolen livestock and children. Until the

passage of the Posse Comitatus Act in 1878, they also assisted local law enforcement with lawbreakers, including assisting the sheriffs in the area with jail duty. They also built roads, explored and mapped much of West Texas.

A hospital with trained medical personnel was available (for civilians, the cost of staying in the hospital was only \$1 per day). Suppliers had important and lucrative contracts with the Army to provide hay, grain, beef, and contract wagons. The quartermaster purchased fresh beef from local ranchers at 10 cents per pound, and the fort purchased 2,000 to 3,000 pounds each month. Hay was delivered at \$8.60 per ton for mules and other livestock. Corn cost \$1 per bushel. Lumber could be purchased for 4 cents per foot, and wood shingles for \$3 to \$3.75 per thousand.

Fort McKavett provided additional benefits for the people of West Texas, including the first school in the area—along with teachers for all children, both military and civilian—and the hiring of locals for clerical and mechanical services.

In 1875, under the direction of Lt. Adolphus Greely (who later went on to become an Arctic explorer and to help found the National Geographic Society), telegraph lines were built to San Antonio and Fort Concho (San Angelo). Locals could use this telegraph service for an average of 10 cents per word, whereas commercial telegraph companies charged 27 cents to \$2.50 per word at that time.

Under the direction of the Fort McKavett surgeon, Army personnel also became the first weathermen in the area by keeping records of temperature and rainfall at the post. A daily recording of all weather-related information was kept at the post and sent to the War Department, where it was published as part of the Signal Corps Weather Service. A sample of the weather during that time recorded Fort McKavett's lowest average daily temperature as 43.66 degrees in December 1873 and highest average daily temperature as 84.29 degrees in July 1873 and 1874. The highest monthly rainfall was recorded as 5.03 inches in September 1874.

Commanding officers comprised a cross-section of the best of the Indian Wars Army, including R.S. Mackenzie, Wm. Shafter, Pennypacker, Bainbridge, Abner Doubleday, H.B. Clitz, Thomas Anderson, E.S. Otis, and D.S. Stanley, to name a few.

Along the way, members of the garrison took part in important courts marshals, including Charles Edward Travis, 2nd U.S. Cavalry (held at Fort Mason), the son of William Travis of the Alamo; the General Court Marshal (held at Fort McKavett) of the four 10th Cavalry enlisted men from the failed Nolan Expedition in West Texas, and Lt. Henry O. Flipper (held at Fort Davis), the first black graduate of the Military Academy.

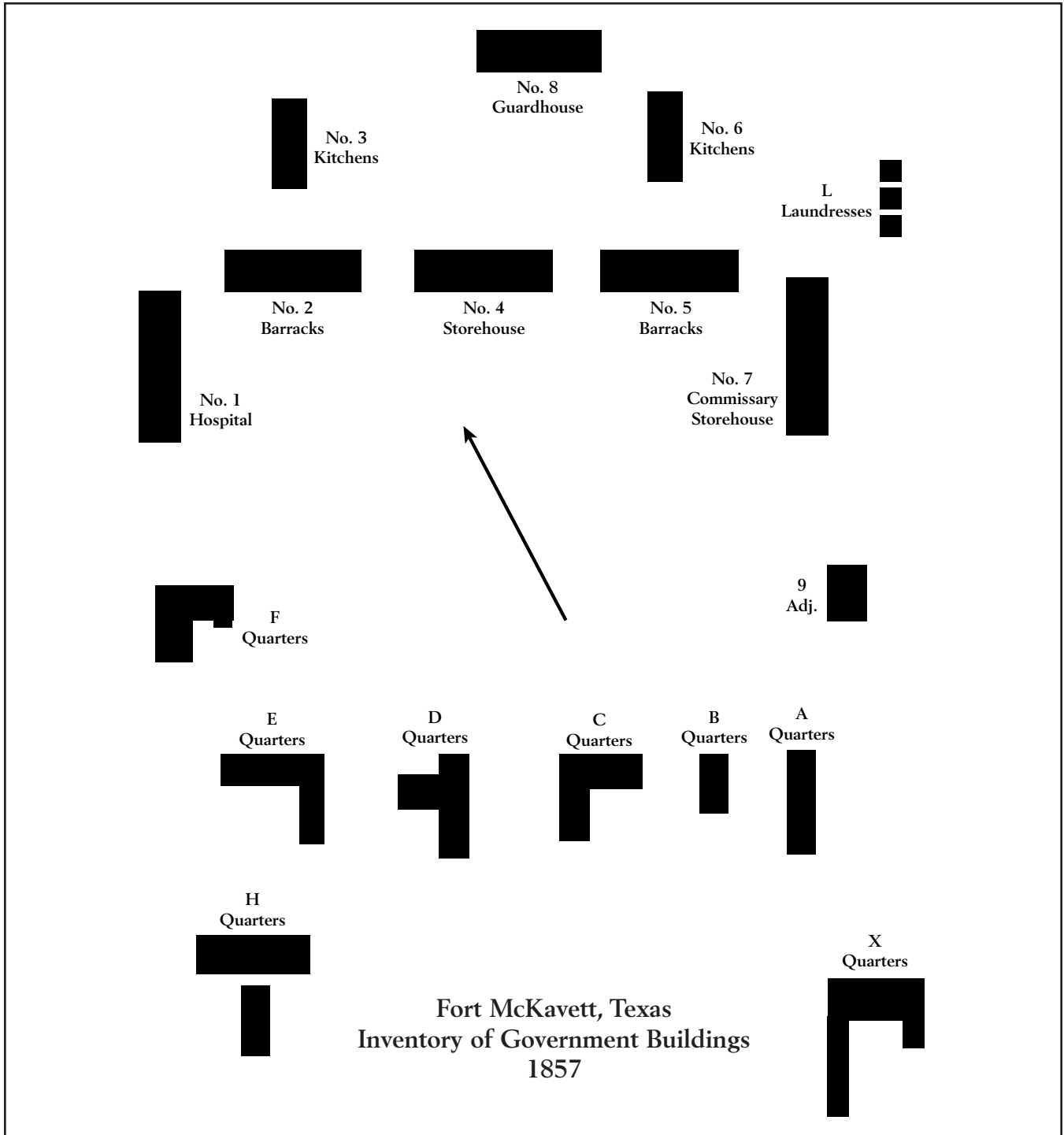


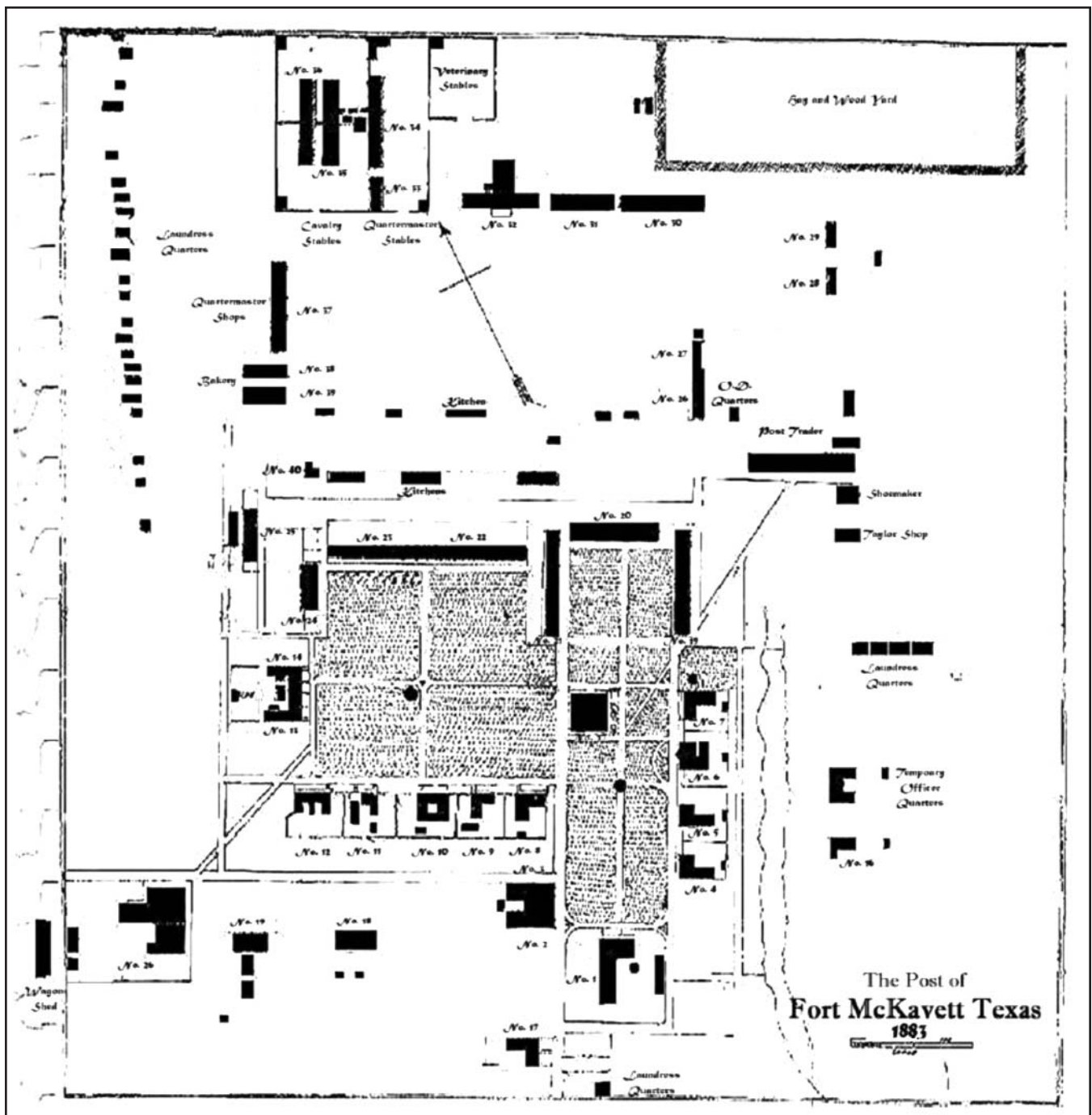
The end of the post came when the Army in Texas lost two full regiments of infantry and one regiment of cavalry in 1880 and 1882 to the Apache Wars in Arizona. Following the completion of the Texas and Pacific Railroad in 1881, giving the Army free shipping to stations along the tracks, and the end of the Indian troubles in West Texas, Fort McKavett found itself having little or no use to the Army.

The post was abandoned in June 1883, and it faded into the history of the West, like so many posts before and after. Today, Fort McKavett State Historic Site consists of 25 restored buildings of the original post, located on 79.5 acres near Menard, Texas. Several of the buildings have been refurnished in period furniture. Fort McKavett has a research library that covers Fort McKavett, the Buffalo Soldiers (all the black regiments), the Army in Texas during the Indian Wars, the Indian Wars Army, and local research including the town of Fort McKavett.



FORT MCKAVETT STATE HISTORIC SITE
PLATS





- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Commanding Officers' Quarters | 12. Lt.'s Quarters | 23. Company Quarters | 32. Commissary Office |
| 2. Field Officers' Quarters | 13. Lt.'s Double Quarters | 24. Band Quarters | 33. Granary |
| 3. Field Officers' Quarters | 14. Lt.'s Double Quarters | 25. Company Quarters | 34. Q.M. Stables |
| 4. Capt.'s Quarters | 15. A.A. Surgeon's Quarters | 26. Hospital Buildings | 35. Cavalry Stables |
| 5. Capt.'s Quarters | 16. Chaplain's Quarters | 27. Guard House Buildings | 36. Cavalry Stables |
| 6. Capt.'s Quarters | 17. Headquarters Building | 28. Commissary Sgt. Quarters | 37. Quartermaster Work Shops |
| 7. Capt.'s Quarters | 18. School House, Chapel, and Library | 29. Quartermaster Sgt. Quarters | 38. Bread Room |
| 8. Lt.'s Quarters | 19. Company Quarters | 30. Q.M. Office and Storerooms | 39. Bakery |
| 9. Lt.'s Quarters | 20. Company Quarters | 31. Q.M. Storeroom and Shop | 40. Sgt. Majors Quarters |
| 10. Lt.'s Quarters | 21. Company Quarters | | |
| 11. Lt.'s Quarters | 22. Company Quarters | | |



FORT MCKAVETT STATE HISTORIC SITE

THE GARRISON

| | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| 1852 | — | — | 300 | 295 | 282 | 267 | 260 | 258 | 257 | 255 | 257 | 256 |
| 1853 | 243 | 243 | 296 | 179 | 327 | 328 | 313 | 302 | 61 | 61 | 112 | 111 |
| 1854 | 122 | 175 | 174 | 121 | 117 | 117 | 107 | 97 | 91 | 91 | 54 | 90 |
| 1855 | 55 | 58 | 94 | 95 | 92 | 91 | 90 | 131 | 129 | 123 | 116 | 116 |
| 1856 | 192 | 192 | 191 | 190 | 190 | 186 | 185 | 184 | 179 | 175 | 177 | 177 |
| 1857 | 161 | 161 | 154 | 151 | 127 | 126 | 126 | 124 | 118 | 140 | 139 | 139 |
| 1858 | 194 | 195 | 172 | 170 | 87 | 86 | 83 | 152 | 149 | 149 | 148 | 146 |
| 1859 | 176 | 173 | 171 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1868 | — | — | 79 | 380 | 365 | 352 | 340 | 266 | 264 | 195 | 128 | 119 |
| 1869 | 110 | 108 | 296 | 292 | 290 | 286 | 284 | 282 | 334 | 283 | 591 | 362 |
| 1870 | 349 | 313 | 282 | 264 | 249 | 259 | 332 | 335 | 356 | 344 | 332 | 336 |
| 1871 | 389 | 399 | 396 | 393 | 426 | 387 | 558 | 578 | 573 | 539 | 538 | 527 |
| 1872 | 533 | 572 | 523 | 503 | 496 | 497 | 495 | 398 | 408 | 495 | 280 | 281 |
| 1873 | 277 | 366 | 434 | 418 | 444 | 406 | 442 | 501 | 484 | 469 | 463 | 458 |
| 1874 | 348 | 502 | 492 | 489 | 478 | 413 | 408 | 439 | 459 | 457 | 452 | 446 |
| 1875 | 366 | 309 | 328 | 401 | 401 | 375 | 370 | 377 | 381 | 376 | 372 | 414 |
| 1876 | 415 | 411 | 409 | 416 | 409 | 408 | 399 | 400 | 384 | 376 | 376 | 370 |
| 1877 | 345 | 405 | 350 | 345 | 322 | 394 | 341 | 341 | 337 | 337 | 335 | 329 |
| 1878 | 321 | 316 | 309 | 312 | 309 | 296 | 358 | 281 | 253 | 281 | 277 | 293 |
| 1879 | 276 | 276 | 270 | 265 | 231 | 556 | 378 | 373 | 370 | 370 | 272 | 268 |
| 1880 | 270 | 221 | 220 | 217 | 213 | 213 | 215 | 187 | 174 | 173 | 486 | 208 |
| 1881 | 304 | 366 | 140 | 269 | 264 | 265 | 262 | 252 | 239 | 232 | 280 | 278 |
| 1882 | 292 | 330 | 328 | 321 | 317 | 316 | 178 | 47 | 46 | 42 | 36 | 38 |
| 1883 | 35 | 59 | 53 | 54 | 52 | 52 | — | — | — | — | — | — |

Compiled by John E. Cobb

The number of troops assigned to Fort McKavett were found in the Post Returns, a form entered for each month the post was occupied. These figures do not take into account troops who were on post in route to other locations. These troops were on post from two days to three weeks while resting or awaiting further orders. Shown count does not include the entire 4th Cavalry Regiment who were on post for several weeks in late 1872 and early 1873 while awaiting orders to move to the Mexican Border.



FORT MCKAVETT STATE HISTORIC SITE
COMMANDING OFFICERS

| | 1852 | 1853 | 1854 | 1855 |
|------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| January | — | Major P. Morrison, 8th Infantry | Capt. Charles A. May, 2nd Dragoons | Capt. Charles A. May, 2nd Dragoons |
| February | — | Major P. Morrison, 8th Infantry | Capt. Charles A. May, 2nd Dragoons | Capt. Charles A. May, 2nd Dragoons |
| March | Lt. Col. F. Staniford, 8th Infantry | Major P. Morrison, 8th Infantry | Capt. Charles A. May, 2nd Dragoons | Capt. Charles A. May, 2nd Dragoons |
| April | Major John F. Sprague, 8th Infantry | Major P. Morrison, 8th Infantry | 2nd Lt. Charles E. Norris, 2nd Dragoons | Capt. Charles A. May, 2nd Dragoons |
| May | Capt. J.V.D. Reeve, 8th Infantry | Major E.B. Alexander, 8th Infantry | Capt. Washington Newton, 2nd Dragoons | 2nd Lt. Charles E. Norris, 2nd Dragoons |
| June | Major P. Morrison, 8th Infantry | Major E.B. Alexander, 8th Infantry | Capt. Washington Newton, 2nd Dragoons | Capt. Richard Anderson, 2nd Dragoons |
| July | Major P. Morrison, 8th Infantry | Major E.B. Alexander, 8th Infantry | Capt. Washington Newton, 2nd Dragoons | Capt. Richard Anderson, 2nd Dragoons |
| August | Major P. Morrison, 8th Infantry | Major E.B. Alexander, 8th Infantry | Capt. Washington Newton, 2nd Dragoons | Capt. William E. Prince, 1st Infantry |
| September | Major P. Morrison, 8th Infantry | Capt. J.V. Bomford, 8th Infantry | Capt. Washington Newton, 2nd Dragoons | Lt. Col. Henry Bainbridge, 1st Infantry |
| October | Major P. Morrison, 8th Infantry | Capt. J.V. Bomford, 8th Infantry | Capt. Washington Newton, 2nd Dragoons | Lt. Col. Henry Bainbridge, 1st Infantry |
| November | Major P. Morrison, 8th Infantry | Capt. J.V. Bomford, 8th Infantry | Capt. Washington Newton, 2nd Dragoons | Lt. Col. Henry Bainbridge, 1st Infantry |
| December | Major P. Morrison, 8th Infantry | Capt. J.V. Bomford, 8th Infantry | 2nd Lt. Charles E. Norris, 2nd Dragoons | Lt. Col. Henry Bainbridge, 1st Infantry |

| | 1856 | 1857 | 1858 | 1859 |
|------------------|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| January | Lt. Col. Henry Bainbridge, 1st Infantry | Capt. William E. Prince, 1st Infantry | Lt. Col. Gouverneur Morris, 1st Infantry | Asst. Surgeon E.P. Langworthy, USA |
| February | Lt. Col. Henry Bainbridge, 1st Infantry | Capt. William E. Prince, 1st Infantry | 1st Lt. Samuel B. Holabird, 1st Infantry | Capt. Joseph B. Plummer, 1st Infantry |
| March | 1st Lt. Daniel Huston Jr., 1st Infantry | 1st Lt. Seth M. Barton, 1st Infantry | Capt. William E. Prince, 1st Infantry | Capt. Joseph B. Plummer, 1st Infantry |
| April | Lt. Col. Henry Bainbridge, 1st Infantry | 1st Lt. Samuel B. Holabird, 1st Infantry | Capt. William E. Prince, 1st Infantry | — |
| May | Lt. Col. Henry Bainbridge, 1st Infantry | 1st Lt. Samuel B. Holabird, 1st Infantry | Asst. Surgeon E.P. Langworthy, USA | — |
| June | Lt. Col. Henry Bainbridge, 1st Infantry | 1st Lt. Samuel B. Holabird, 1st Infantry | Capt. Joseph B. Plummer, 1st Infantry | — |
| July | Lt. Col. Henry Bainbridge, 1st Infantry | 1st Lt. Samuel B. Holabird, 1st Infantry | Capt. Joseph B. Plummer, 1st Infantry | — |
| August | Capt. William E. Prince, 1st Infantry | 1st Lt. Samuel B. Holabird, 1st Infantry | Capt. Joseph B. Plummer, 1st Infantry | — |
| September | Capt. Joseph B. Plummer, 1st Infantry | 1st Lt. Samuel B. Holabird, 1st Infantry | Capt. Joseph B. Plummer, 1st Infantry | — |
| October | Capt. William E. Prince, 1st Infantry | Lt. Col. Gouverneur Morris, 1st Infantry | Capt. Joseph B. Plummer, 1st Infantry | — |
| November | Capt. William E. Prince, 1st Infantry | Lt. Col. Gouverneur Morris, 1st Infantry | Capt. Joseph B. Plummer, 1st Infantry | — |
| December | Capt. William E. Prince, 1st Infantry | Lt. Col. Gouverneur Morris, 1st Infantry | Capt. Joseph B. Plummer, 1st Infantry | — |

COMMANDING OFFICERS CONTINUED

| | 1868 | 1869 | 1870 | 1871 |
|------------------|---|--|---|---|
| January | — | 2nd Lt. Horace P. Sherman, 35th Infantry | Col. R.S MacKenzie, 24th Infantry | Lt. Col. William Shafter, 24th Infantry |
| February | — | 1st Lt. J. Murphy, 4th Cavalry | Capt. C.W. Cunningham, 24th Infantry | Lt. Col. William Shafter, 24th Infantry |
| March | Capt. E.B. Beaumont, 4th Cavalry | Col. R.S MacKenzie, 41st Infantry | Col. R.S MacKenzie, 24th Infantry | Lt. Col. William Shafter, 24th Infantry |
| April | Major G.A. Gordon, 4th Cavalry | Capt. Henry Carroll, 9th Cavalry | Capt. C.W. Cunningham, 24th Infantry | Col. Abner Doubleday, 24th Infantry |
| May | Major G.A. Gordon, 4th Cavalry | Capt. Henry Carroll, 9th Cavalry | Capt. Henry Carroll, 9th Cavalry | Capt. Henry Carroll, 9th Cavalry |
| June | Major G.A. Gordon, 4th Cavalry | Capt. Henry Carroll, 9th Cavalry | Lt. Col. William Shafter, 24th Infantry | Col. Abner Doubleday, 24th Infantry |
| July | Major G.A. Gordon, 4th Cavalry | Col. R.S MacKenzie, 41st Infantry | Capt. C.W. Cunningham, 24th Infantry | Col. Abner Doubleday, 24th Infantry |
| August | Capt. E.B. Beaumont, 4th Cavalry | Col. R.S MacKenzie, 41st Infantry | Capt. C.W. Cunningham, 24th Infantry | Col. Abner Doubleday, 24th Infantry |
| September | Capt. E.B. Beaumont, 4th Cavalry | Col. R.S MacKenzie, 41st Infantry | Lt. Col. William Shafter, 24th Infantry | Capt. John Claus, 24th Infantry |
| October | Capt. E.B. Beaumont, 4th Cavalry | Col. R.S MacKenzie, 41st Infantry | Lt. Col. William Shafter, 24th Infantry | Col. Abner Doubleday, 24th Infantry |
| November | 1st Lt. W.H. Hick, 4th Cavalry | Col. R.S MacKenzie, 41st Infantry | Lt. Col. William Shafter, 24th Infantry | Col. Abner Doubleday, 24th Infantry |
| December | 2nd Lt. Cyrus M. De Lany, 35th Infantry | Capt. Henry Carroll, 9th Cavalry | Lt. Col. William Shafter, 24th Infantry | Col. Abner Doubleday, 24th Infantry |

| | 1872 | 1873 | 1874 | 1875 |
|------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| January | Col. Abner Doubleday, 24th Infantry | Major A.P. Morrow, 9th Cavalry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry |
| February | Col. Abner Doubleday, 24th Infantry | Lt. Col. A.McD. McCook, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry |
| March | Col. Abner Doubleday, 24th Infantry | Lt. Col. A.McD. McCook, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry |
| April | Col. Abner Doubleday, 24th Infantry | Lt. Col. A.McD. McCook, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry |
| May | Capt. Henry C. Corbin, 24th Infantry | Lt. Col. A.McD. McCook, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry |
| June | Capt. Henry C. Corbin, 24th Infantry | Lt. Col. A.McD. McCook, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry |
| July | Col. Abner Doubleday, 24th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Major Thomas M. Anderson, 10th Infantry |
| August | Capt. Henry C. Corbin, 24th Infantry | Lt. Col. A.McD. McCook, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry |
| September | Capt. John R. Parke, 24th Infantry | Lt. Col. A.McD. McCook, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry |
| October | Lt. Col. William Shafter, 24th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry |
| November | Capt. Edward G. Bush, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry |
| December | Major A.P. Morrow, 9th Cavalry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Major Thomas M. Anderson, 10th Infantry |

COMMANDING OFFICERS CONTINUED

| | 1876 | 1877 | 1878 | 1879 |
|------------------|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| January | Major Thomas M. Anderson, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Major Thomas M. Anderson, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry |
| February | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Major Thomas M. Anderson, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry |
| March | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Major Thomas M. Anderson, 10th Infantry | Major Thomas M. Anderson, 10th Infantry | Capt. Edward G. Bush, 10th Infantry |
| April | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Major Thomas M. Anderson, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry |
| May | Major Thomas M. Anderson, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Lt. Col. E.S. Otis, 22nd Infantry |
| June | Major Thomas M. Anderson, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Lt. Col. E.S. Otis, 22nd Infantry |
| July | Major Thomas M. Anderson, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Col. David S. Stanley, 22nd Infantry |
| August | Major Thomas M. Anderson, 10th Infantry | Major Thomas M. Anderson, 10th Infantry | Capt. John B. Parke | Col. David S. Stanley, 22nd Infantry |
| September | Major Thomas M. Anderson, 10th Infantry | Major Thomas M. Anderson, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Col. David S. Stanley, 22nd Infantry |
| October | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Major Thomas M. Anderson, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Col. David S. Stanley, 22nd Infantry |
| November | Major Thomas M. Anderson, 10th Infantry | Major Thomas M. Anderson, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Lt. Col. E.S. Otis, 22nd Infantry |
| December | Major Thomas M. Anderson, 10th Infantry | Major Thomas M. Anderson, 10th Infantry | Col. H.B. Clitz, 10th Infantry | Capt. Frances Clarke, 22nd Infantry |

| | 1880 | 1881 | 1882 | 1883 |
|------------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| January | Capt. Frances Clarke, 22nd Infantry | Col. William R. Shafter, 1st Infantry | Col. G. Pennypacker, 16th Infantry | Major Horace Jewett, 16th Infantry |
| February | Major Alfred L. Houghe, 22nd Infantry | Capt. Thomas Tolman, 1st Infantry | Col. G. Pennypacker, 16th Infantry | Major Horace Jewett, 16th Infantry |
| March | Major Alfred L. Houghe, 22nd Infantry | Col. G. Pennypacker, 16th Infantry | Col. G. Pennypacker, 16th Infantry | Major Horace Jewett, 16th Infantry |
| April | Major Alfred L. Houghe, 22nd Infantry | Col. G. Pennypacker, 16th Infantry | Col. G. Pennypacker, 16th Infantry | Major Horace Jewett, 16th Infantry |
| May | Capt. Frances Clarke, 22nd Infantry | Col. G. Pennypacker, 16th Infantry | Col. G. Pennypacker, 16th Infantry | Major Horace Jewett, 16th Infantry |
| June | Capt. Frances Clarke, 22nd Infantry | Col. G. Pennypacker, 16th Infantry | Major Horace Jewett, 16th Infantry | Capt. H.A. Theaker, 16th Infantry |
| July | Major Alfred L. Houghe, 22nd Infantry | Col. G. Pennypacker, 16th Infantry | Major Horace Jewett, 16th Infantry | — |
| August | Major Alfred L. Houghe, 22nd Infantry | Col. G. Pennypacker, 16th Infantry | Capt. H.A. Theaker, 16th Infantry | — |
| September | Major Alfred L. Houghe, 22nd Infantry | Col. G. Pennypacker, 16th Infantry | Major Horace Jewett, 16th Infantry | — |
| October | Major Alfred L. Houghe, 22nd Infantry | Major C. H. Webb, 16th Infantry | Major Horace Jewett, 16th Infantry | — |
| November | Major Alfred L. Houghe, 22nd Infantry | Major C. H. Webb, 16th Infantry | Major Horace Jewett, 16th Infantry | — |
| December | Capt. Frances Clarke, 22nd Infantry | Col. G. Pennypacker, 16th Infantry | Major Horace Jewett, 16th Infantry | — |

Compiled by John E. Cobb from the Post Returns of Fort McKavett, Texas.



FORT MCKAVETT STATE HISTORIC SITE
DUTY SURGEONS

| Name | Rank | Date Started | Date Ended |
|------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Samuel Wylie Crawford | USA | 25 Mar 52 | 24 Aug 53 |
| William W. Anderson | USA | 16 Dec 53 | 15 Jul 54 |
| Robert Southgate | USA | 30 Aug 54 | 15 Aug 55 |
| Robert Rowe Smith | USA | 15 Aug 44 | 29 Aug 56 |
| Andrew K. Smith | USA | 29 Aug 56 | 31 Dec 57 |
| Elisha P. Langworthy | USA | 31 Dec 57 | 22 Mar 59 |
| Redford Sharpe | Civilian | 1 Apr 68 | 28 Dec 70 |
| Johnson V.D. Middleton | USA | 25 Mar 68 | 15 Nov 68 |
| John Ridgely | Civilian | 15 Nov 68 | 10 Aug 69 |
| Robert W. Dorsey | Civilian | 16 Mar 69, 1 Feb 71 | 7 Nov 69, 7 Jul 72 |
| A. De Coffre | Civilian | 6 Nov 69 | 10 Jun 70 |
| Thomas B. Davis | Civilian | 5 Aug 70 | 4 Nov 72 |
| Alfred Conrad Girard | USA | 24 Sep 70 | 18 Nov 70 |
| Dallas Bache | USA | 15 Nov 70 | 1 Apr 72 |
| O.J. Eddy | Civilian | 31 May 71 | 31 Jun 71 |
| A.C.O. Findlay | Civilian | 14 Aug 71 | 21 Oct 71 |
| George E. Cooper | Civilian | 11 Nov 71 | 3 Jun 72 |
| Egon A. Koerper | USA | 7 Jun 72 | 22 Jul 72 |
| Samuel M. Horton | USA | 22 Jul 72 | 24 May 76 |
| A.L. Buffington | Civilian | 7 Jul 72, 13 Jul 74, 1 May 81 | 14 Jun 73, 30 Mar 75, 15 Jun 83 |
| J.A. Wolf | Civilian | 7 Aug 73 | 5 Nov 79 |
| Robert Gale | Civilian | 28 Jul 74 | 8 Oct 76 |
| George W. Adair | USA | 13 Jan 76 | 24 May 80 |
| Charles E. Goddard | USA | 25 May 76 | 24 May 80 |
| William E. Waters | USA | 19 May 80 | 15 May 82 |

Compiled by John E. Cobb from the Post Returns and Medical Journal of Fort McKavett, Texas.



FORT MCKAVETT STATE HISTORIC SITE

THE REGIMENTS

Located on the western edge of the Texas Hill Country, Fort McKavett State Historic Site is one of the most complete Indian Wars army posts in Texas.

Several quarters and buildings have period furnishings and displays. The site was home to all four of the “Buffalo Soldier” regiments as well as several other cavalry, dragoons and infantry regiments. Fort McKavett was active from 1852–1859, then again from 1868–1883.



The patch of the 1st Infantry was adopted years after Fort McKavett. Elements of the regiment still exist today.

1st U.S. Infantry

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Headquarters | August 1855 – February 1858, January 1881 – February 1881 |
| Company A | January 1881 – February 1881 |
| Company B | January 1881 – March 1881 |
| Company C | August 1855 – March 1859 |
| Company E | August 1844 – May 1858, January 1881 – February 1881 |
| Company F | August 1858 – March 1859 |
| Company G | January 1881 – February 1881 |
| Company H | December 1880 – March 1881 |

The 1st U.S. Infantry served at Fort McKavett before and after the Civil War.



1st Lt. Samuel Holabird of the 1st Infantry commanded Fort McKavett before the Civil War and went on to become the Quartermaster General of the U.S. Army.



Capt. Seth M. Barton was with the 1st Infantry at Fort McKavett, then resigned to become a Brig. General in the Confederacy.

REGIMENTS CONTINUED – 1st U.S. INFANTRY



Capt. Joseph B. Plummer of the 1st Infantry, who closed the Post in 1859, became a Brig. General the same day he died during the Civil War.



William R. "Pecos Bill" Shafter commanded the 1st Infantry when they returned to Fort McKavett. This was after he commanded the post when he was with the 24th Infantry. He went on to become a Major General and was over the Cuban Campaign in the Spanish American War.



1st Lt. Daniel Huston, Jr., became the Colonel of the 5th Infantry in 1882.



Lt. Col. Pinkney Lugenvael left Fort McKavett to become the Colonel of the 5th Infantry.



1st Lt. Marion P. Maus was awarded the Medal of Honor after leaving Fort McKavett in the Geronimo Campaign in Arizona.



Capt. Thomas M. Tolman of Company H died in 1883 after leaving Fort McKavett.

REGIMENTS CONTINUED

8th U.S. Infantry

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Headquarters | March 1852 – September 1853 |
| Company B | March 1852 – September 1853 |
| Company D | March 1852 – September 1853 |
| Company E | March 1852 – September 1853 |
| Company F | March 1852 – September 1853 |
| Company H | March 1852 – January 1854 |



8th Infantry
Coat of Arms

The post was named for Henry McKavett, a Captain with the 8th Infantry who was killed in Mexico in 1846.

**McKavett, Henry. N.Y. N.Y. Cadet
M A 1 July (24); bvt 2 lt 7 inf 1 July
1834; 2 lt 26 Mar 1835; 1 lt 25 Dec 1837;
tr to 8 inf 7 July 1838; capt 1 Oct 1840;
killed 21 Sept 1846 at the battle of Mon-
terey Mex.**

McKavett's Military Record
from Heitman's Registry



The patch of the
8th Infantry was
adopted years after
Fort McKavett. Elements
of the regiment still
exist today.

The 8th Infantry founded the post, built the first roads, worked on buildings, cleared the land, found water and were the first military presence in West Texas for the Army. This left very little time for patrols or expeditions against the Native American Indians. West Texas was a very dangerous place for settlers at this time. Comanche, Lipan Apache and Mescalero Apache raiders ran rampant through the area.



Lt. Col. Thomas Staniford was the first Commanding Officer of Fort McKavett.



Major John F. Sprague started out in the Marine Corps before going to the 8th Infantry.

REGIMENTS CONTINUED – 8th U.S. INFANTRY



Capt. I.V.D. Reeve became a General in the Civil War.



Major P. Morrison was promoted to Brigadier General for his long and faithful service to the U.S. Army.



Assistant Surgeon S. Wylie Crawford left the Medical Corps and was reassigned to the Infantry, where he made the Bvt. Rank of Major General at war's end.



Capt. James V. Bomford commanded the post in 1853 and became a Bvt. Brigadier General during the Civil War.

REGIMENTS CONTINUED

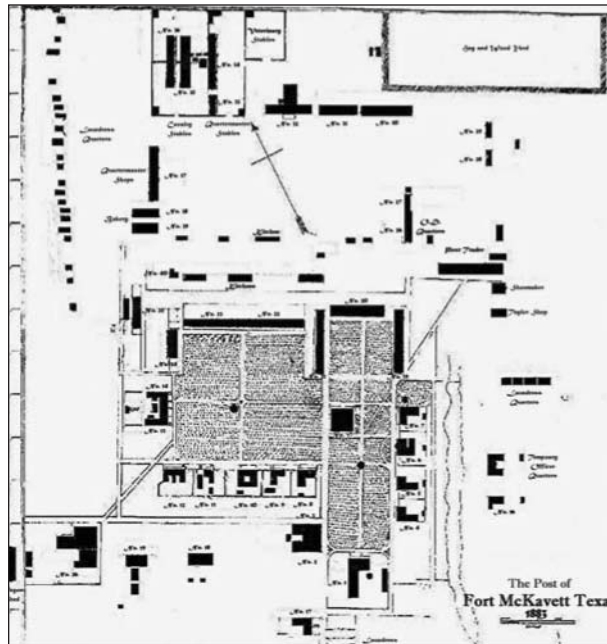


The patch of the 10th Infantry was adopted years after Fort McKavett. Elements of the regiment still exist today.

10th U.S. Infantry

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Headquarters | September 1872 – May 1879 |
| Company A | February 1873 – June 1874, September 1876 – May 1879 |
| Company B | February 1873 – June 1879 |
| Company C | February 1873 – June 1879 |
| Company E | February 1873 – June 1879 |
| Company F | September 1872 – May 1879 |
| Company I | September 1872 – May 1879 |

The 10th Infantry made Fort McKavett home longer than any other regiment and, under the command of Col. Clitz, led the most ambitious building program in the history of Fort McKavett. One of the roads built by the 10th Infantry was a new road from Fort McKavett to Fort Stockton in 1876. They worked with Company K of the 10th Cavalry and two companies of Texas Rangers to finish this road. This road is now known as Hwy. 190. The 10th Infantry also built the telegraph lines between San Antonio and Fort McKavett, as well as Fort Concho, bringing modern communications to West Texas.



Col. Henry B. Clitz served as Commander of the 10th Infantry.

REGIMENTS CONTINUED – 10th U.S. INFANTRY



Lt. Col. Alexander McCook was known for his parties at Fort McKavett.



Major Thomas Anderson was in command of Fort McKavett for several months and presided over several famous Court Marshals.



2nd Lt. Henry B. Chamberlain was over the construction of the telegraph line to Department of Texas Headquarters in San Antonio.



Lt. Adolphus W. Greely of the Signal Corps supervised the building of telegraph lines in Texas. He went on to become an Arctic explorer and founder of the National Geographic Society.



10th Infantry officers in the field after leaving Fort McKavett.

REGIMENTS CONTINUED



16th Infantry
Coat of Arms

16th U.S. Infantry

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Headquarters | March 1881 – August 1882 |
| Company D | April 1881 – June 1883 |
| Company E | April 1881 – July 1882 |
| Company G | April 1881 – August 1882 |
| Company H | December 1881 – August 1882 |
| Company I | March 1881 – July 1882 |
| Company K | March 1881 – July 1882 |

The 16th Infantry spent most of their time at Fort McKavett readying the post to be abandoned. With the loss of one cavalry regiment and two infantry regiments to Arizona, the lack of a threat from Native American Indians and the completion of the railroad across Texas, the time for Fort McKavett had come to an end.

Company D of the 16th U.S. Infantry was the last unit to serve at Fort McKavett. They brought down the flag at noon on June 30, 1883, and marched out of the post to Fort Duncan on the Rio Grande.



The patch of the 16th Infantry was adopted years after Fort McKavett. Elements of the regiment still exist today.



Awarded the Medal of Honor and brevetted a Major General during the Civil War, Galusha Pennypacker started his military career as a Quartermaster Sgt. in 1861. He served as Colonel when stationed at Fort McKavett. He was the President of the Court Marshal Board over the trial of Lt. Henry Flipper at Fort Davis serving with other members of the 16th Infantry stationed at Fort McKavett.



Capt. Merritt Barber defended Lt. Flipper so well, he was promoted to the Attorney General's Department in Washington, D.C.

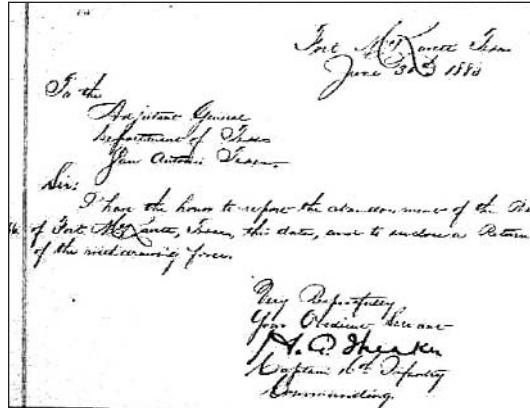


Capt. Henry Clay Ward of Company E was at the post from April 1881 until July 1882.

REGIMENTS CONTINUED – 16th U.S. INFANTRY



1st Lt. George Bacon served briefly at Fort McKavett before transferring to Fort Concho. He died on duty at that post in 1883.



The last telegram sent from Fort McKavett by Capt. Theaker of the 16th Infantry, closing the post on June 30, 1883.

REGIMENTS CONTINUED



22nd Infantry
Coat of Arms

22nd U.S. Infantry

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| Headquarters | May 1879 – November 1879 |
| Company B | May 1879 – January 1881 |
| Company C | May 1879 – January 1881 |
| Company G | May 1879 – January 1881 |
| Company H | May 1879 – November 1879 |
| Company I | May 1879 – January 1881 |

Fresh off campaigns in the Yellowstone region, including the Little Big Horn and Sioux wars, and then on to the Ute wars in Colorado, the 22nd Infantry was sent to Texas. They garrisoned several posts on both the Mexican Border and in West Texas performing the maintaining of posts, patrols, guard duties, road building and guarding the mail routes. Headquarters of the 22nd left first, followed by the companies two months later.



The patch of the 22nd Infantry was adopted years after Fort McKavett. Elements of the regiment still exist today.



Lt. Col. Elwell S. Otis transferred to the 20th Infantry as their Colonel when he left Fort McKavett.



Col. David Sloan Stanley commanded the 22nd Infantry at Fort McKavett. He had been awarded the Medal of Honor during the Civil War and after leaving Fort McKavett was promoted to Commanding General of the Department of Texas.

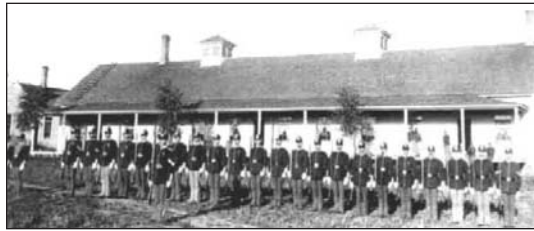


22nd Infantry captains in camp.

REGIMENTS CONTINUED – 22nd U.S. INFANTRY



First sergeants of the 22nd Infantry receiving orders in camp.



22nd Infantry company on parade.

REGIMENTS CONTINUED



The patch of the 24th Infantry was adopted years after Fort McKavett. It shows their accomplishment during the Spanish American War.

24th U.S. Infantry

| | |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| Headquarters | October 1869 – August 1872 |
| Company A | July 1871 – August 1872 |
| Company C | July 1871 – October 1872 |
| Company D | October 1869 – February 1872 |
| Company E | July 1870 – October 1872 |
| Company H | July 1871 – October 1872 |
| Company I | July 1871 – October 1872 |

In 1869, the 24th Infantry was founded at Fort McKavett with the consolidation of the 41st and 38th Infantry regiments.



Although not assigned to Fort McKavett when he performed the duties that later brought him the Medal of Honor, George E. Albee (the only Medal of Honor holder in the 41st Infantry), was with the 41st Infantry and later the 24th Infantry regiments at Fort McKavett. In July 1871, Lt. Albee and his Company C, 24th Infantry was assigned to Fort McKavett where he served until October 1872. He served as the Commanding Officer of his company during this stay on the post.



Ranald S. Mackenzie served as the Colonel of the 41st Infantry and 24th Infantry regiments at Fort McKavett from 1868–1870.



Col. Abner Doubleday commanded the 24th Infantry at Fort McKavett until his retirement in 1872.



Lt. Col. William "Pecos Bill" Shafter commanded the 24th Infantry at Fort McKavett on several occasions in the early 1870s.

REGIMENTS CONTINUED – 24th U.S. INFANTRY



Capt. Henry C. Corbin commanded Company C at Fort McKavett in 1872.



2nd Lt. Fayette W. Roe commanded Company I at Fort McKavett from 1871–1872.



1st Lt. Henry W. Lawton was the Regimental and Post Quartermaster between 1869–1871.



Company D 2nd Lt. John Bullis served at Fort McKavett 1868–1872 before starting the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts.



24th Infantry officers at Fort McKavett in 1870.

REGIMENTS CONTINUED

25th U.S. Infantry

Company C July 1870 – July 1871

Company H July 1870 – July 1871



25th Infantry
Coat of Arms

In 1869, the 25th Infantry began with the consolidation of the 40th and 39th Infantry regiments. Both companies assigned to Fort McKavett were involved in guard duties at the post as well as at Kickapoo Springs Mail Station and Manyard Creek, Native American Indian scouts, wagon train escorts, the construction of the post, building and maintaining the roads, working in the post gardens, working as bakers and other frontier post chores. In July, 1871, they were transferred to Fort Clark.



The patch of the 25th Infantry was adopted years after Fort McKavett. It shows their accomplishment during the Spanish American War.



Unfortunately, there are no individual photographs available of the officers of the 25th Infantry who had served at Fort McKavett. They were Capt. John Williams, Company C; 1st Lt. Jacob Paulus, Company C; Capt. Charles F. Robe, Company H; 1st Lt. David B. Wilson, Company H; and 2nd Lt. Frank M. Coxe, Company H.



Officers of the 25th Infantry in the 1880s.



A company of the 25th Infantrymen after leaving Fort McKavett. They are in their dress uniforms used for parades.

REGIMENTS CONTINUED – 25th U.S. INFANTRY



An unknown 25th Infantryman with his winter buffalo coat in Missouri. The job of the Army on the frontier didn't take a break in cold weather.

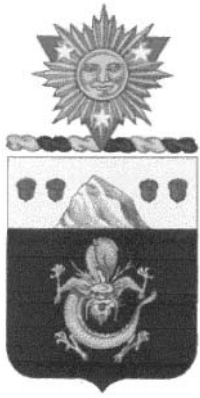


A company of the 25th Infantry in winter campaign gear.

35th U.S. Infantry

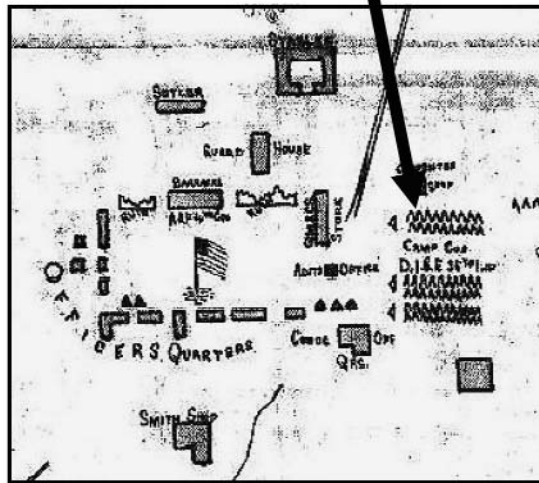
(In 1869, the 35th and 15th Infantry regiments consolidated into the 15th Infantry that exists today)

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Company D | April 1868 – September 1868 |
| Company E | April 1868 – July 1868 |
| Company F | October 1868 – March 1869 |
| Company I | April 1868 – October 1868 |



The Coat of Arms of the 15th Infantry was adopted years after the consolidation of the 15th and 35th regiments after Fort McKavett. Elements of the regiment still exist today.

The 35th Infantry was the first infantry to return to Fort McKavett after the Civil War. While at Fort McKavett, the 35th Infantry lived in tents while they were rebuilding the post.



The major job of the 35th Infantry while stationed at Fort McKavett was reconstructing the buildings from that had lapsed into ruins during the nine years the Army was absent. The first priority was rebuilding the barracks for the enlisted men and the bakery. The Army had to have somewhere for the men to sleep and had to feed them. The only building left in good shape was the commanding officers quarters because it had been used by the Robinson family while the Army was gone.

The 35th Infantry was recalled starting in late 1868 to Austin. They consolidated with the 15th Infantry in March 1869 and stayed on the western frontier until the 1890s. Until the consolidation, the 15th Infantry was involved in "Reconstruction" after the Civil War. In their brief stay at Fort McKavett, they only had time to work on rebuilding the post. There were no Native American Indian scouts or expeditions mounted in their stay. Due to their efforts, the 41st Infantry and 9th Cavalry companies were able to move in to buildings on their arrivals almost immediately.

REGIMENTS CONTINUED – 35th U.S. INFANTRY



1st Lt. Adam Gale Malloy, a member of Company F, had been brevetted as a Brigadier General during the Civil War. He was originally from Ireland and had taken a rank of 2nd Lt. after the War to stay in the Army in 1866. He was promoted to 1st Lt. with his transfer to the 35th Infantry. After leaving Fort McKavett, he was unassigned until August 1870, when he was honorably discharged from the Army at his own request. His is the only photograph of the garrison of the post located at this time.

REGIMENTS CONTINUED

2nd U.S. Dragoons

Company E November 1853 – August 1855
Company F November 1853 – April 1855
Company G February 1854 – August 1855



2nd Armored Cavalry
Coat of Arms

The 2nd Dragoons at Fort McKavett were the forerunners of the Cavalry. The 2nd Dragoons built many of the officers quarters' and barracks of the Pre-Civil War Fort McKavett. Many of the officers of the 2nd Dragoons left the service and joined the Confederacy at the start of the Civil War. The 2nd Dragoons became the 2nd Cavalry.



The 2nd Dragoons became the 2nd U.S. Cavalry and adopted this crest. The 2nd Cavalry became the 2nd Armored Cavalry and still exists today.



Capt. Charles M. May in his flamboyant Dragoon uniform.



Capt. Richard H. Anderson left the service of the United States and joined the Confederate Army in 1861. He rose to the rank of lieutenant general.



Dragoons in their field dress.

REGIMENTS CONTINUED – 2nd U.S. DRAGOONS



Dragoons were essentially mounted infantrymen. They fought on foot and used their horses mostly as transportation.



The dragoons had a very distinctive uniform. They were essentially mounted infantrymen until the mid-1850s, when they developed the cavalry tactics used during the Civil War. Note the shortened rifle, called a “musketoon,” and the heavy saber.

REGIMENTS CONTINUED



The patch of the 4th Cavalry was adopted years after Fort McKavett. Elements of the regiment still exist today.

4th U.S. Cavalry

(Companies M and G were attached to Fort McKavett while Company A was on the Palo Duro Expedition.)

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Company A | March 1868 – March 1869, February 1874 – January 1875 |
| Company F | April 1868 – November 1868 |
| Company G | February 1875 – March 1875 |
| Company M | August 1874 – January 1875 |

Company M of the 4th Cavalry was on temporary assignment to Fort McKavett in 1874–1875 while most of the regiment was in the field with Mackenzie in Palo Duro Canyon. They worked closely with Company K of the 10th Cavalry in patrolling the area as well as fulfilling guard duties on the mail routes. Their stay at the post was only six months but occurred during the most turbulent times in West Texas history. Company G was assigned to the post after that campaign long enough to re-supply and rest the company before transferring to Fort Sill, Indian Territory.



Ranald S. Mackenzie left Fort McKavett and the 24th Infantry to command the 4th Cavalry in 1870 and visited Fort McKavett several times in the 1870s.



Major John K. Mizner at Fort McKavett in 1874 with Company M.



Capt. William O'Connell commanded Company M in 1874.

REGIMENTS CONTINUED – 4th U.S. CAVALRY

Company A Medal of Honor Awardees:



Capt. Eugene Beaumont
reopened the Post in 1868.



1st Lt. J.H. Dorst
1874-75



1st Lt. Peter M. Boehm
1868



1st Lt. R.G. Carter
1874



Corporal John W. Comfort
1874

Not shown are Corporal Henry A. McMasters and Farrier Ernest Veuve. Company A had seven Medal of Honor awardees stationed at Fort McKavett between 1868 and 1875.

Company F Medal of Honor Awardees:



Farrier David Larkin
1874



Capt. Wirt Davis
Company F commanding
officer later as Colonel

Not shown: 2nd Lt. Lewis Warrington 1869.

REGIMENTS CONTINUED



9th Cavalry
Coat of Arms

9th U.S. Cavalry

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| Company D | November 1873 – January 1874 |
| Company F | March 1869 – January 1874 |
| Company M | March 1869 – November 1873 |

Three companies of the 9th Cavalry spent most of their time at Fort McKavett on patrols, guard duties on military wagon trains, and explorations of West Texas. They had more Native American Indian encounters and fights than any other units assigned to the post.

Sgt. Emanuel Stance was assigned to patrol the Kickapoo Springs area in May, 1870 in response to the theft of two children and several mules and horses from the Loyal Valley area. He found the Native American Indians and over a two-day period, rescued the children, recovered the stock and saved an Army wagon train from attack by Native American Indians. Sgt. Stance was awarded the Medal of Honor in July, becoming the first black soldier to be honored with the Medal during the Indian Wars.



The patch of the 9th Cavalry was adopted years after Fort McKavett. Elements of the regiment still exist today.



Capt. Henry Carroll's Company F were stationed at Fort McKavett in the early 1870s. They had the reputation of being "bulldogs" when in pursuit of raiding Native American Indians, and they logged thousands of miles in the field.



Capt. Frances Sanford Dodge of Company D was awarded the Medal of Honor after Fort McKavett in the 1879 Ute Uprising in Colorado.



Major Albert Payson Morrow was over the 9th Cavalry's Battalion at Fort McKavett from 1873–1874.

REGIMENTS CONTINUED – 9th U.S. CAVALRY

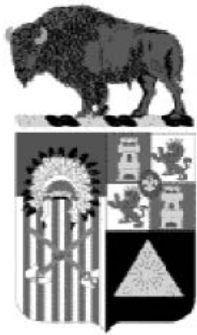


9th Cavalry officers in the 1870s.



9th Cavalrymen on parade in the 1880s after leaving Fort McKavett and Texas.

REGIMENTS CONTINUED



9th Cavalry
Coat of Arms

10th U.S. Cavalry

(The units were considered a company until 1883, when they were re-designated as "Troops.")

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| Company C | April 1875 – August 1878 |
| Company K | April 1875 – May 1876 |

Buffalo Soldiers – Although the term “Buffalo Soldiers” has come to mean all black soldiers, the 10th Cavalrymen were the first to be called by that name.

10th Cavalrymen had no rest at Fort McKavett. They had patrols and campaigns against Native American Indians, they helped in the construction of the post, they guarded the mail routes and outposts of the Fort, and they built roads in West Texas. One of these roads was built with Company K of the 10th Cavalry, Company K of the 10th Infantry and two companies of Texas Rangers. This road became the modern Hwy. 190 to Fort Stockton.



The patch of the 10th Cavalry was adopted years after Fort McKavett. Elements of the regiment still exist today.



Company K was commanded by Thomas C. Lebo. Lebo had started out as a first lieutenant with Company C of the 10th and was later promoted to captain and company commander.



Lt. Col. John W. Davidson was stationed at Fort McKavett in 1875 and 1876 after leading the 10th from Fort Sill, Indian Territory with Mackenzie and Nelson Miles.



Capt. Nicholas Nolan was not assigned to Fort McKavett but was involved in two high-profile court-martials in the 1870s. In the disaster of 1877, four of his men were court-martialed at the post after they had left the command after three days without water. The other was when one of his lieutenants, Henry Flipper, was court-martialed at Fort Davis and the post officers were involved in the court.

REGIMENTS CONTINUED – 10th U.S. CAVALRY



Unidentified 10th Cavalryman in the 1870s dress and equipment that would have been used at Fort McKavett when the 10th was assigned to the post.

Photo Credits:

Cover image, photograph by John Cobb of 1850s Infantry
Hat Badge

Page 2, 1875 Ragsdale Drawing of Fort McKavett, Texas,
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Page 5, 1857 drawing of Fort McKavett by John Cobb from
the original Inspector General's Report (National
Archives)

Page 6, 1883 Plat of Fort McKavett, Texas from the Final
Inspection of Fort McKavett, Texas, June 30, 1883
(National Archives)

Page 15-38, photographs of officers, regimental emblems, and
plats from the National Archives and the U.S. Army
Military History Institute



Artwork by John Cobb



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