



Fort McKavett 8th U.S. Infantry Regiment

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 52 – September 53

Company H

March 1852 – January 1854

Fort McKavett State Historic Site

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.

Fort McKavett and the 8th U.S. Infantry

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 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.

FORT MCKAVETT AND THE 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.



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



8th Infantry
Coat of Arms



Fort McKavett State Historic Site
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