



The Tyrant's Foe

Newsletter of the Texas Rifles

Volume 55

Celebrating 36 Years of Excellence

October 2023



Captain's Post

This is an indication that we are now back on schedule with our newsletter, as you should be reading this sometime early in November.

There was discussion previously about our future as an organization. More specifically as to whether we had a future. I believe that we do. Three new prospective members attended Ft. McKavett. Like our current members, they found parts of the weekend to be a very satisfying experience as we portrayed scenarios we have not previously done, and so can add to our living history memories. Reports from the American Revolution events are that a number of

younger people are joining the units and continuing the hobby of living history for another generation. I am hopeful we will also see a similar renaissance.

Next event was to be Veteran's Day at City Hall in Houston. Hostile weather conditions led to this activity being cancelled. Thus, the next event we have to look forward to is our annual muster for 2024. Those Details will be in the next newsletter to be published late December during the holidays.

Please check if you are on the newsletter mailing list by checking here <https://www.texasrifles.org/lists/> this page will let you update your email address as well as manage your subscription to the list.

Keeping History Alive



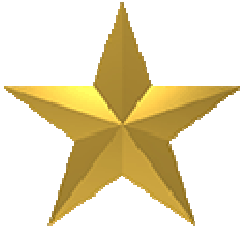
Lieutenant's Inkwell

Our McKavett event has come and gone, and again it did not disappoint! I reported to the fort as a private this time, and I concerned myself with the very things that enlisted men cared about. The labor we were required to perform, and our free time when the work was done!

In the past we have policed the grounds, pulled weeds, carried water, cut wood, and repaired buildings or furniture. This time the task was new, and I found it interesting and informative although it was work and messy! We whitewashed parts of a building and a fence. Immediately when I heard we were going to whitewash, my mind turned to Mark Twain's classic Tom Sawyer. This time there were no takers to be convinced to do the labor for me. Fort McKavett personnel informed us about the process. White wash is basically lime and water. The soldiers would have quarried the stone and then burned it in a kiln. This process creates lime. They would have then hauled water and mixed the two, creating the white wash. I was skeptical about the "paint". It looked like thin skimmed milk. How could it possibly make a fence white. The brushes we used were comparable to modern day wall paper brushes. Thick and clumsy to use, we really splashed the liquid onto the surface of the fence, then spread it around with the brush. We were assured by the next day the lime would have done its work. What do you know? The next day our work was brilliant white! I couldn't believe it. The sloppiness of the application worried me that my clothes and brogans would be forever stained white. Not so much. A little water and some elbow grease was just what the doctor ordered! The stains were gone. Tommy had suggested turning our jackets inside out as we worked. He told us an enlisted man would use his old coat for laboring, while keeping his newest sack coat for more soldierly events.

Our free time was spent sitting on the barracks porch after supper. We told stories and enjoyed the company of our pards. It always reminds me of growing up, we sat in or on our porch and passed time listening to mom and dad tell stories about their experiences. The company of friends is truly a blessing of the hobby. Hopefully, I will sit in the barracks with you next time we go to McKavett.

Lt. Chris Strzelecki





1SG's Rants

On detached duty

**Best regards,
Joey Alamia 1st Sergeant**

Recruiting Duty

**If anyone has a referral interested in the Texas Rifles, contact:
Jim Richardson @ 832-673-8393, Houston**



Ft. McKavett September 2 and 3, 2023

The event had excellent weather and a nice turn out of members and recruits.



Mustering out



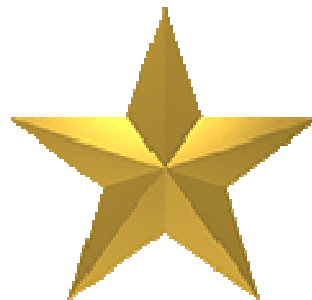
Whitewash?

One of the typical activities of maintaining the fort. We also had some park visitors that we were able to “chat up” and provide some insight into Army life in the late 1860s. The Park wants us back in March of 2024.



Fatigue Detail

Another successful event at Ft. McKavett



Lets shoot for a December 15th deadline for the next newsletters articles so we can get one published for December 31st and have everyone informed about Muster.

Please email me at joseph.a.alamia@gmail.com with any and all articles. I'd love to start a book review/recommendation section if someone would like to contribute (preferably Civil War or Texas Revolution related).

Joey

