

# HISTORY AT HOME

#TXHistoryAtHome

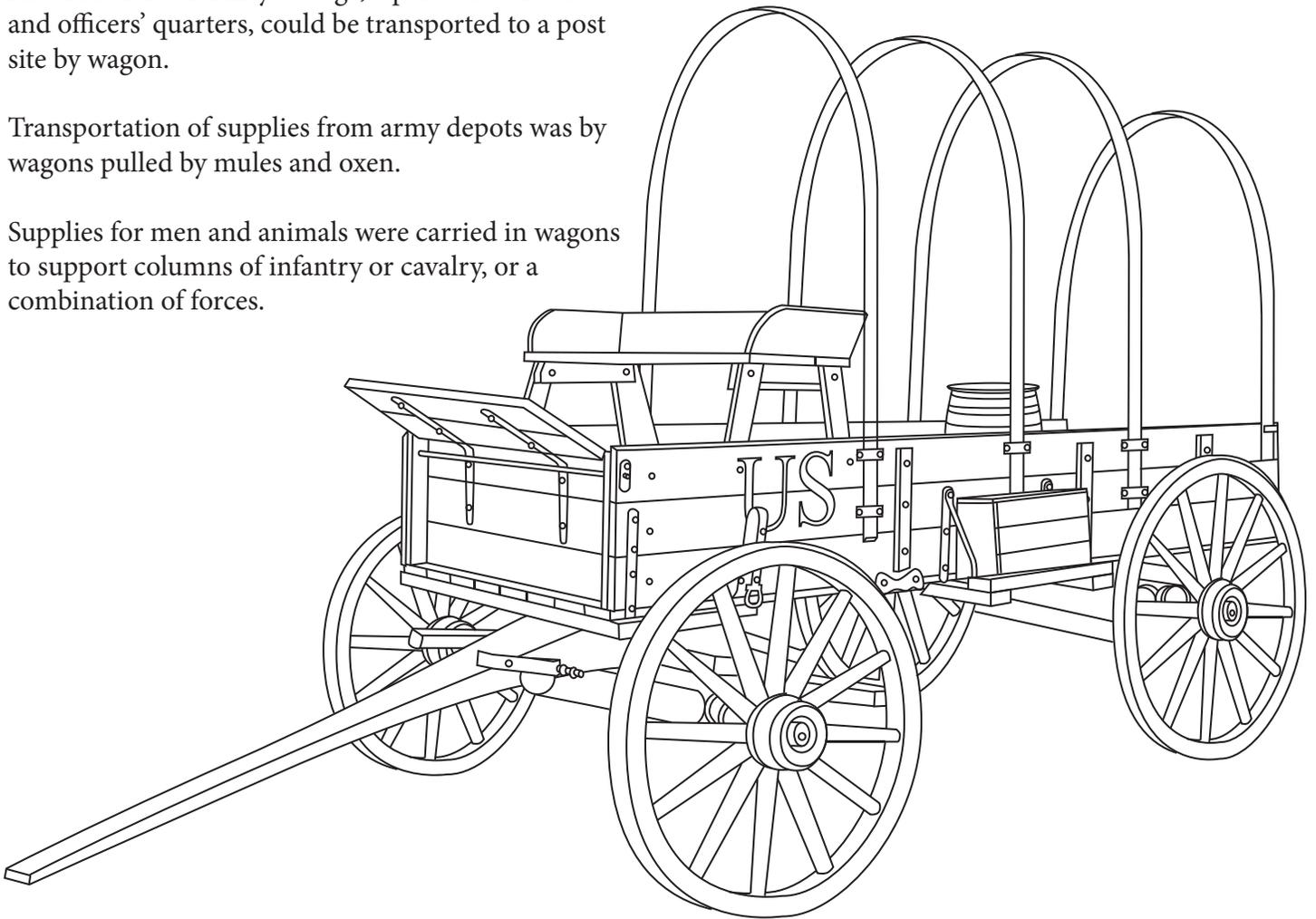
## MILITARY HISTORY

DID YOU KNOW? Fort McKavett acted as a supply depot for the posts north and west of the Upper El Paso Road and had warehouses along the northern boundary of the post.

Materials for a Turnley cottage, a portable barracks and officers' quarters, could be transported to a post site by wagon.

Transportation of supplies from army depots was by wagons pulled by mules and oxen.

Supplies for men and animals were carried in wagons to support columns of infantry or cavalry, or a combination of forces.



**FORT  
MCKAVETT**

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

*Fort McKavett, Texas*

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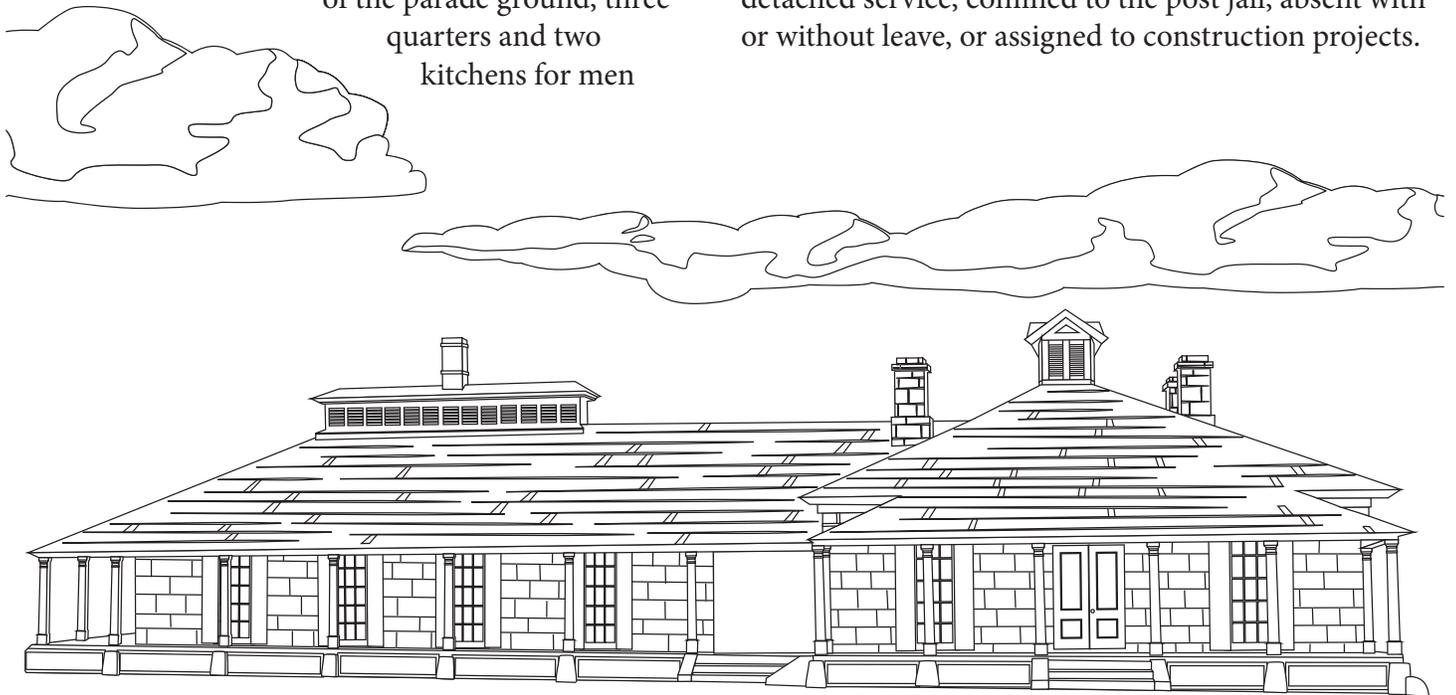
## MILITARY HISTORY

DID YOU KNOW? Fort McKavett had stone quarters, barracks, headquarters, a bakery, adjutant's office, and a hospital.

On the site's grounds, there are nine officers' quarters on the southeast, south, southwest, and east sides of the parade ground; three quarters and two kitchens for men

on the north side of the parade ground; a commissary store on the northeast side; an adjutant's office on the west side; and the hospital on the northwest side.

At any given time, a number of troops present at a post would be ill and in the post hospital, absent on detached service, confined to the post jail, absent with or without leave, or assigned to construction projects.



Hospital Building

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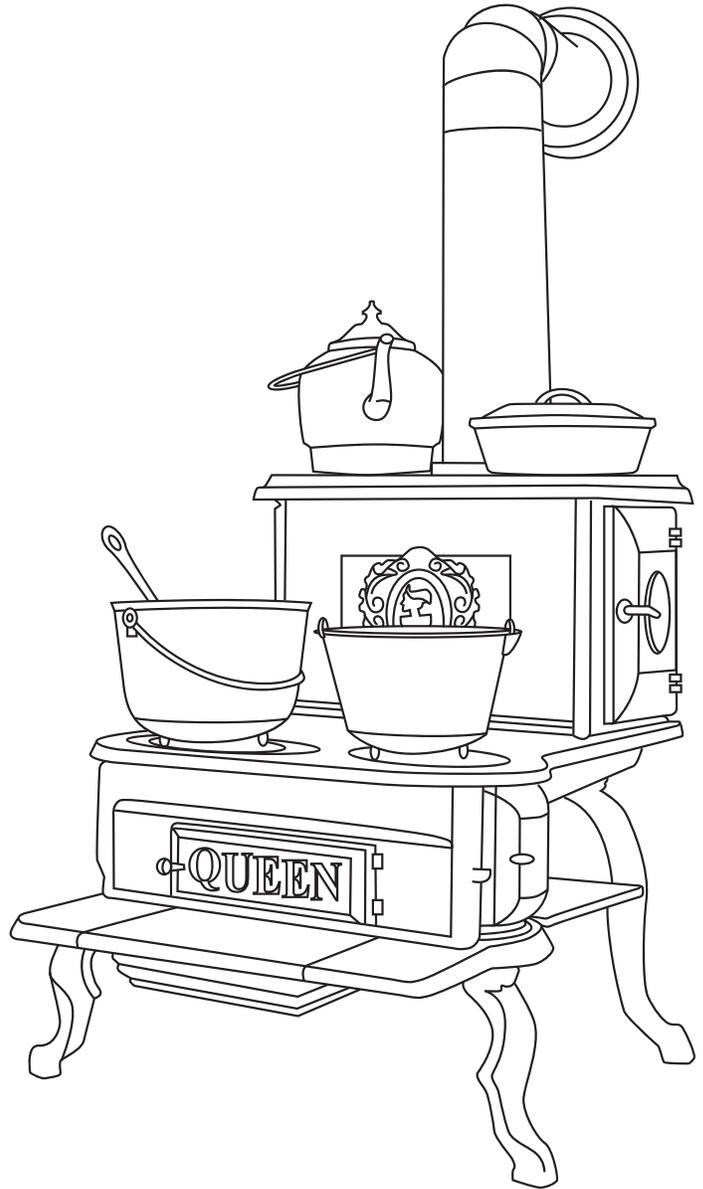
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## MILITARY HISTORY

DID YOU KNOW? The population of frontier forts was mixed and included not only officers and men, but also families, laundresses, chaplains, and teachers. Officers' wives were the elite of post society. They had to adapt to often-primitive surroundings in their efforts to create islands of civility.

Some women found conditions overwhelming. Mrs. Kendall, wife of Second Lt. H. M. Kendall, reacted to violent March storms by “wringing her hands and crying” most of the time. She recovered enough to organize a dinner party that Lt. Col. Sturgis described in a letter home. He remarked that the serving table was so tiny that the main course, a turkey, appeared to be suspended from the ceiling. Side dishes included baker’s bread, pickles, and canned peas; his drink was a tumbler of water.

A dinner given by Capt. Adna R. Chaffee’s wife began with promise and ended in disaster. Sturgis was amazed by the way Mrs. Chaffee had been able to decorate “her little room. . . like a fairy scene.” The table was set with china and crystal that had been wedding presents, and a carpet covered the floor. Just as the guests were finishing the meal, a gust of wind hit one of many cracks in the wall behind the china cabinet. The cabinet fell over, striking the table, breaking the china and glassware, and leaving what was left of the turkey, mustard, oil, pepper, and other condiments a “grand, greasy and gelatinous mess.”



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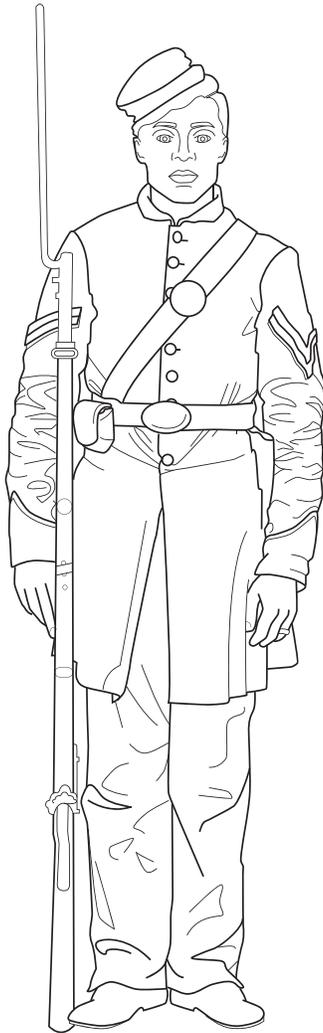
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## MILITARY HISTORY

**DID YOU KNOW?** The African American regiments—the 9th U.S. Cavalry, 10th U.S. Cavalry, 24th Infantry, and 25th Infantry—became known as the Buffalo Soldiers.



Laundresses provided essential services required by war department regulations. The laundresses at the post were paid by the piece and an industrious laundress could make as much as an officer per month.



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