

FORT MCKAVETT

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Fort McKavett, Texas

Post-Visit Guide

Grade 7

Overview: How the West Was Actually Won

In this lesson, students will explore how Fort McKavett and the U.S. Army fort system advanced technological progress in communication, boosted the local economy, and contributed to the safety and settlement of the western frontier.

Social Studies TEKS

(5) History. The student understands how events and issues shaped the history of Texas during the Civil War and Reconstruction. The student is expected to:

(B) analyze the political, economic, and social effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction in Texas.

(21) Social studies skills. The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired through established research methodologies from a variety of valid sources, including electronic technology.

The student is expected to:

(A) differentiate between, locate, and use valid primary and secondary sources such as computer software, databases, media and news services, biographies, interviews, and artifacts to acquire information about Texas;

(B) analyze information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions

Materials

- Historical images and maps
- Activity worksheets and graphic organizer

Vocabulary

- **A.A.C.S.** (Acting Assistant Commissary of Subsistence): the commissary was in charge of all food and supplies, or subsistence stores, at a post.
- **A.A.Q.M.** (Acting Assistant Quartermaster): the quartermaster assigned quarters to soldiers as well as supplies like clothing and fuel.
- **civilian:** a person not in the military or armed services
- **subsistence stores:** stores that provided basic supplies such as pork, flour, coffee, candles, etc.
- **telegraph:** a system for transmitting messages along wires over great distances

Activity: Fort McKavett Visit

10 minutes

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Ask students to reflect on their visit to Fort McKavett by completing all columns of their **KWL chart**. Have students share their experiences including any new questions raised by the visit.

Activity: More Than Peacekeeping

10 minutes

Context: Fort McKavett contributed more than peacekeeping to nearby settlements:

- **communication:** Troops at Fort McKavett assisted with the installation and maintenance of over 1,500 miles of telegraph lines. It has been estimated that civilian messages constituted as much as 75% of telegraph traffic over military lines.
- **medicine:** Post hospitals like Fort McKavett's would have served the families of the troops and likely would have been the only medical service available to nearby settlements and travelers. The fort surgeon commonly treated illnesses and issues such as pneumonia, snakebite, the common cold, and outbreaks of infectious diseases like cholera and dysentery.
- **education:** The schoolhouse was open to illiterate soldiers with classes taught by a troop chaplain. After the fort was abandoned in 1883, the schoolhouse was available to all local children.

Distribute the **More Than Peacekeeping graphic organizer**. Have students use the knowledge gained on their site visit to identify contributions of Fort McKavett soldiers and staff in the areas of communication, medicine, and education during the time of western expansion.

Primary Source Activity: Business on the Frontier

Display or distribute the **newspaper articles from 1856**. As a class, find answers to the following questions:

- **According to the San Antonio paper article, what supplies are the forts requesting?**
[hay and beef]
- **What specific requests are made about how the pork must be prepared in the Texas State Times newspaper?**
[in pieces not exceeding six pounds, cured with Turk's Island or Liverpool salt, packed in oak barrels filled with brine]

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Extend the discussion by asking:

- **How did the fort and the troops stationed there affect the local and regional economy?**
[Farmers and ranchers competed to supply these large-scale military contracts.]
- **What are additional ways Fort McKavett affected the frontier economy?**
[“Scabtown” and other settlements were established around the fort. Service businesses like hotels, saloons, and general stores also appeared along the Upper Road.]

Lesson Extension: Frontier Messages

Display or distribute the General Service Code of the Army and Navy resource. Have students work individually or in pairs to create a simple coded message with the binary code. Have students exchange messages to decipher them.

In this code, a *1* is communicated by one quick tap. A *2* is two quick taps.

Additional resources for building a workable telegraph:

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonrepro/lessonplans/profbooks/gotmessage.htm>

<http://www.mdsci.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/DIY-Telegraph.pdf>

Assessment

Evaluate students’ final KWL charts for completeness and understanding.

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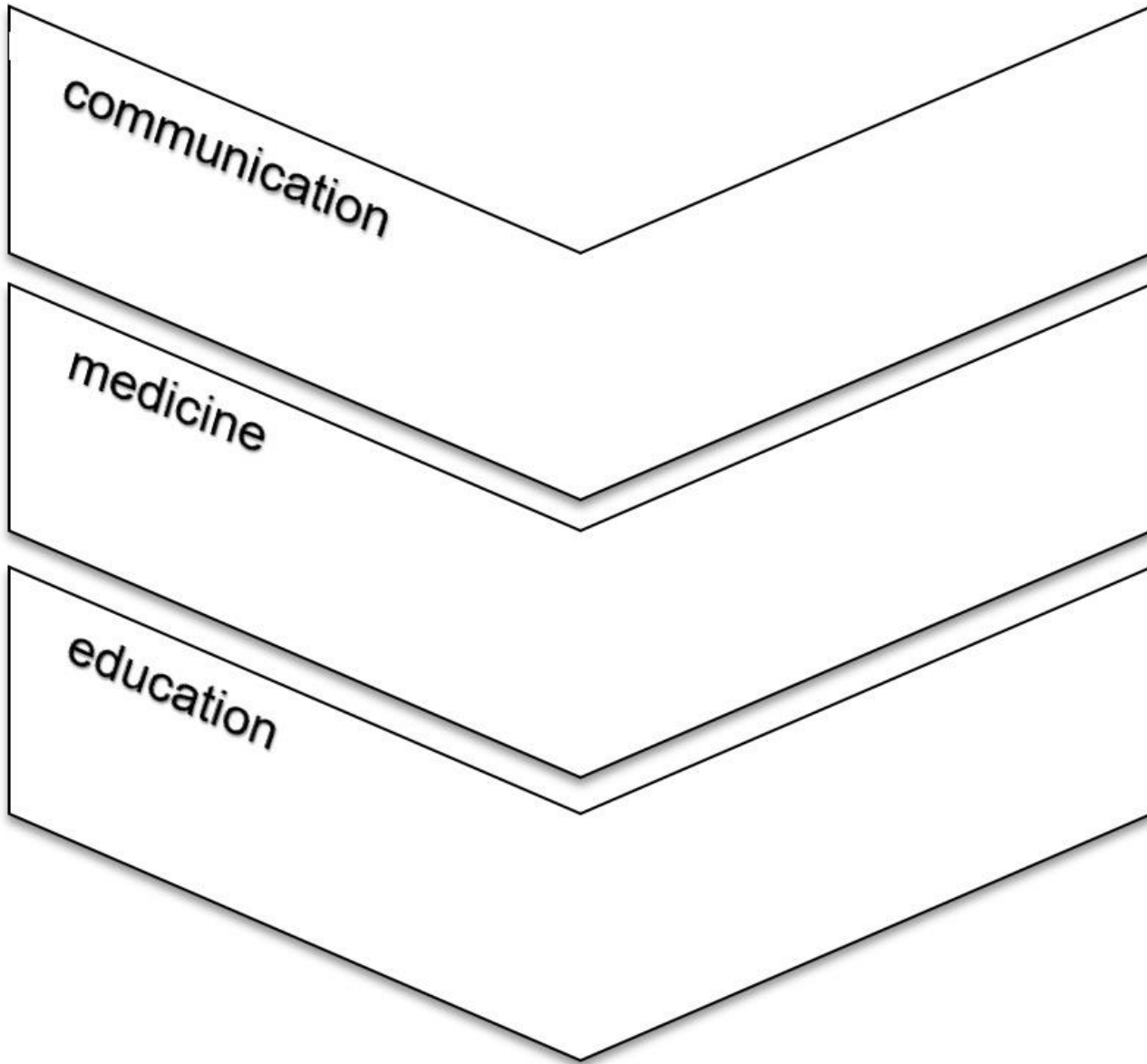
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Graphic Organizer: More Than Peacekeeping



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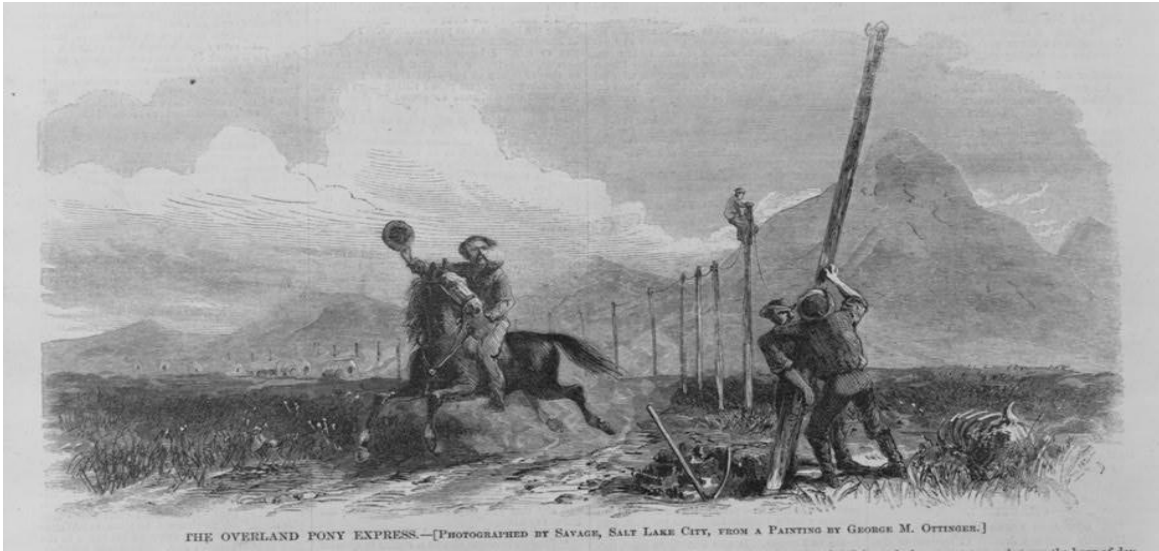
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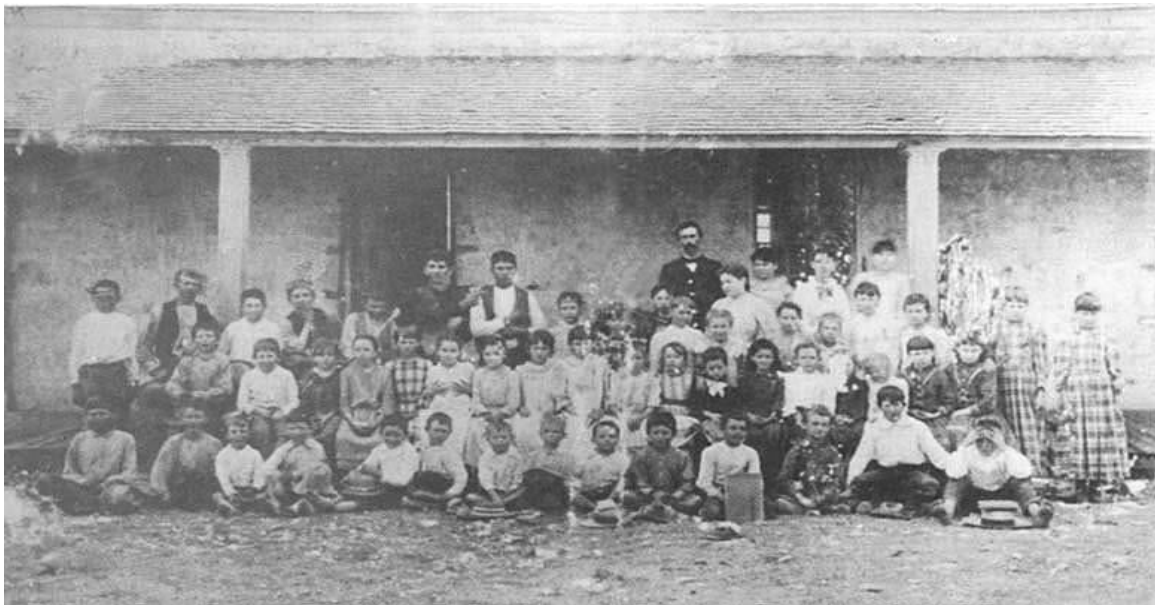
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Activity Images: More Than Peacekeeping



The overland pony express / photographed by Savage, Salt Lake City ; from a painting by George M. Ottinger . , 1867. Photograph. Retrieved from the Lib




Local Students, 1894.

<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/72/ef/a8/72efa82e7922e818a7c4b4ac5066bbf5.jpg>

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Fort McKavett, Texas

Primary Source: *San Antonio Texan*, June 5, 1856

Huston, E. G. *San Antonio Texan* (San Antonio, Tex.), Vol. 8, No. 33, Ed. 1 Thursday, June 5, 1856, University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu, crediting The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History. texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph232681/ (Accessed February 17, 2018).

dress sil-s, embroideries, ribbons, Ladies dress goods of the latest styles, straw goods of all kinds, gloves & hosiery
Also:
Gentlemen's ready made clothing of every variety & of the latest fashions, summer pants, vesting, hats, caps, boots and shoes, hose, shirts handkerchiefs, gloves of all kinds, fancy cravats, drawers, undershirts, collars, belts.
All of which we will sell lower than any store in the country. In addition to the above, we have various other articles too numerous to mention
We would only say that our goods have been selected with great care for the wants of this market. We feel assured, therefore, that we can offer such inducements as will insure satisfaction to our customers. We would respectfully solicit an examination of our stock, as we take pleasure in showing our goods.
San Antonio, May 8th, 1856. 29-1y

SEALED PROPOSALS,

WILL be received at this office until the 20th June next, to cut, cure, deliver and stack, at their post, within two months from that date fifty tons of the best hay grown in this part of the country. For particulars apply to the undersigned.

S. B. HOLABIRD,
1st Lieut. 1st Inf't. R. Q. M.
A. A. Q. M. office, Fort McKavett, Texas, }
May 13th, 1856. } 31-2t

NORMANDY CIDER, AT WHOLESALE.

I AM now prepared to furnish Bar-Rooms, Retail and Wholesale Groceries, and Private Families, in quantity, with

A SUPERIOR ARTICLE OF

cer commanding Dept. of Texas.
E. E. McLEAN, Asst. Qr. Master.
Asst. Qr. Master's office, San Antonio, }
May 13th, 1856 } 30-3t

BEEF! BEEF!!

SEALED PROPOSALS for supplying the troops at Fort McKavett, Texas, with best quality grass fed beef, in such quantities as may be required; for one year, from July 1st, 1856, will be received until May 20th. The post is at present garrisoned by two companies, and beef is usually issued every other day. Endorse, "Proposals for Beef," and direct to the A. A. C. S. Fort McKavett, Texas. For particulars apply to S. B. HOLABIRD, 1st Lieut. 1st Infantry, A. A. C. S.
30-2t

PROPOSALS FOR HAY.

SEALED Proposals will be received at this office until the 1st of June next, for the supply by contract of two hundred Tons of Hay to this post,—the Hay to be good Musquit Hay, and none other to be delivered, and to be stacked in good order at such place as the A. A. Qr. Mr. may direct, the delivery and the stacking of the whole to be completed by the 1st of October. Two responsible sureties for the fulfilment of the contract, to be named in the bid. The Hay to be inspected by a Board of officers, before reception, and in case of a non fulfilment of the contract, the penalties annexed to the requisite Bonds, to be rigidly enforced.

The right of rejecting all the bids is reserved
HENRY W. CLOSSON,
2d Lt. 1st Art. A. A. Q. M.
Act. Asst. Cr. Mr's. office Fort Clark, Texas, }
May 6th, 1856. } 30-3t

NOTICE.

ALL Persons indebted for purchases from the Drug Store of the late firm of Desmuke & Co., or of A. W. Desmuke, who succeeded to the business, will come forward and make payment to the undersigned

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Fort McKavett, Texas

Primary Source: *Texas State Times*, 1856

Ford, John S. & Jones, William E. *The Texas State Times* (Austin, Tex.), Vol. 3, No. 26, Ed. 1 Saturday, June 7, 1856, University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu, crediting The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph235807/ (Accessed February 17, 2018).

To the Farmers of Texas.

THE UNDERSIGNED, charged with the Subsistence of the United States troops in Texas, wishes to learn if he can obtain from the resources of the country, the PORK and BACON required for the Army; and for that purpose he invites proposals to furnish those articles for one year from March 1, 1857.

The quantity required for the year is at San Antonio 280,000 lbs., to be distributed as follows: to Fort Belknap 40,000 lbs; to Camp Cooper, (near Fort Belknap,) 40,000 lbs.; to Fort Chadbourne 20,000 lbs; to Fort McKavett 20,000 lbs.; to Fort Mason 60,000 lbs; to Fort Clark 30,000 lbs.; to Fort Duncan 50,000 lbs; to Camp Lancaster, (El Paso route) 20,000 lbs; to Fort Davis, (El Paso route.) 80,000 lbs.

Propositions are invited for the supply for each of the Posts separately, and for the whole at San Antonio.

The Pork must be in pieces not exceeding six pounds in weight, (jowls, chins, and shanks excluded,) well cured with Turk's Island or Liverpool salt, and packed in good strong white oak barrels, two-thirds hooped; each barrel to contain 200 lbs. net, and to be filled with saturated brine. The Bacon must be cured with salt of equal quality, and thoroughly smoked. Both must be made of corn-fattened hogs, and be subject to inspection before being received. The right must be reserved to the officer in charge of the subsistence at the place of delivery, to call at such times, and for such quantities, (not more than a quarter nor less than one-twelfth of the whole,) as the interests of the service may require.

It is also desired to obtain FLOUR for the troops at Forts Chadbourne, McKavett and Mason for one year from August 1, 1857. For Forts Chadbourne and McKavett 140,000 lbs. each, and for Fort Mason, if maintained, 400,000 lbs. The terms of delivery to be the same as for the Pork.

Offers must be addressed to the undersigned, endorsed "special business," and they will be received until the 31st day of July next. They will then be forwarded to the Commissary General of Subsistence for his consideration, and such instructions as he may deem fit.

The first delivery of salt meat will not be required before the middle of March, 1857.

W B. BLAIR, Capt. Com. Sub.
Office of Com. of Sub. Department of Texas, San Antonio, Texas, May 30, 1856.

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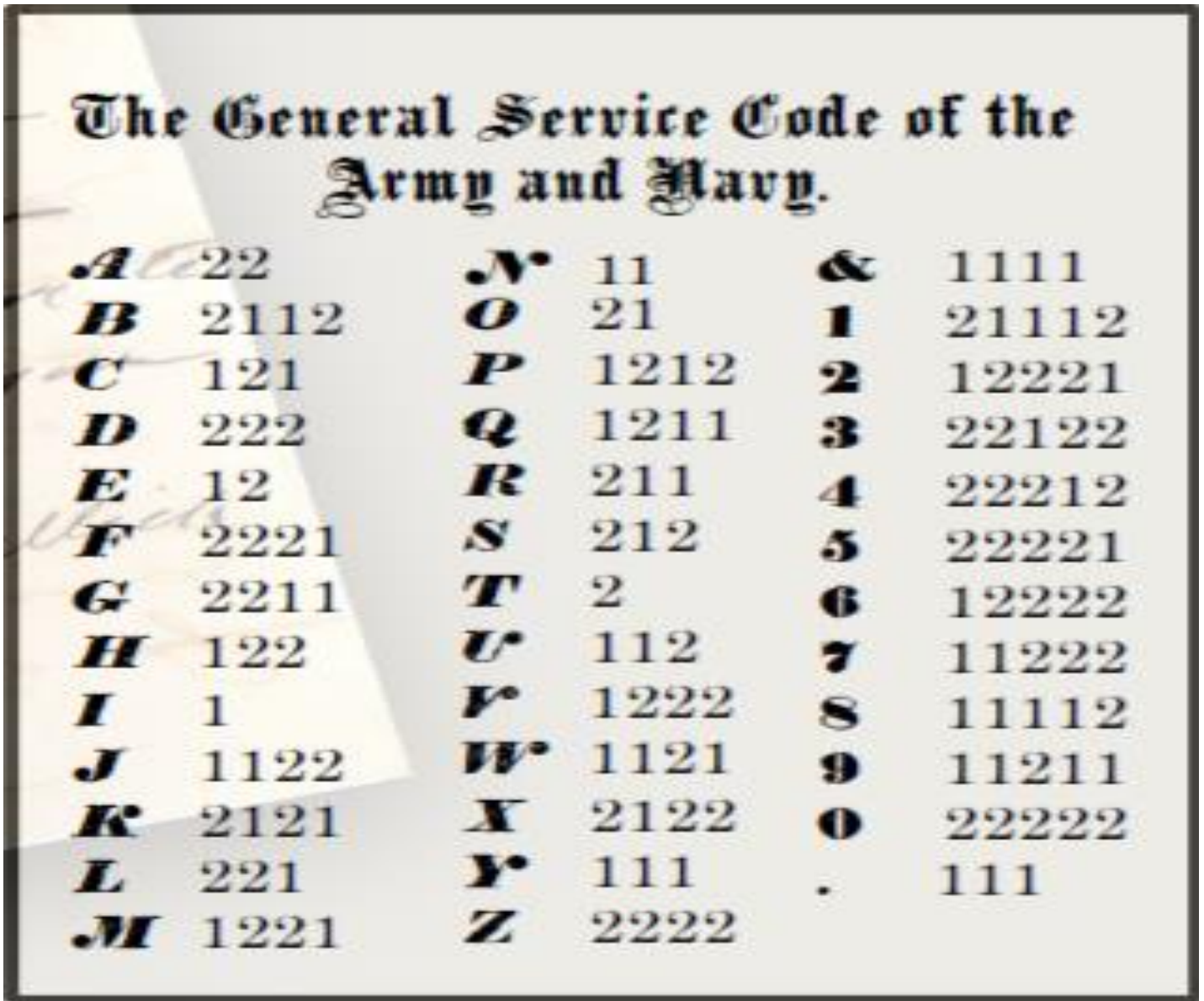
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Fort McKavett, Texas

The General Service Code of the Army and Navy



The General Service Code of the Army and Navy.

A	22	N	11	&	1111
B	2112	O	21	1	21112
C	121	P	1212	2	12221
D	222	Q	1211	3	22122
E	12	R	211	4	22212
F	2221	S	212	5	22221
G	2211	T	2	6	12222
H	122	U	112	7	11222
I	1	V	1222	8	11112
J	1122	W	1121	9	11211
K	2121	X	2122	0	22222
L	221	Y	111	.	111
M	1221	Z	2222		

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