



# Major's Orders

**Major Benjamin F. Ficklin**

Chapter 310 – San Angelo  
Military Order of the Stars and Bars



JULY 2023

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## Special points of interest:

16 Sept. 2023—Quarterly Meeting of Maj. Benjamin Ficklin Chapter 310 @ Ft. Concho.

6-7 Oct. 2023—Fall General Executive Council meeting in Harrison, Ark.

20-21 Oct. 2023—Fall Society Executive Council meeting in College Station.

## Commander's Comments

June 24<sup>th</sup> 2023, was a red-letter date for our Chapter 310 and the Texas Society of the MOS&B. We gathered in the town of Christoval to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of the **Confederate Reunion Grounds Christoval monument**. The monument was dedicated in April 2013 in recognition of the United Confederate Veterans (UCV) camps that held reunions along the banks of the Concho River in the early 1900s. The monument was placed as part of a huge civic celebration and has stood proud ever since. Our chapter gathered to hear the significance of the monument and the underwriters who made the marker possible. Many of our chapter members attended the original event. Christoval City Park is an important historical site in Tom Green County and includes some of the oldest and largest pecan trees in West Texas.

We retreated from the climbing temperatures to Cooper's BBQ and held our quar-

terly meeting. Many Chapter members were awarded **Certificates of Service** to the MOS&B by the Texas Society. Certificates will be mailed out to members who were not in attendance. [See the separate article listing all service award recipients.]

A special presentation was made to **Jeri Putman**, wife of Chapter 310 Adjutant James Putman. Jeri received the **MOS&B's national Lorena Howell Davis medal** in recognition of her outstanding service to the national organization. It also was announced that Chapter 310, in the competition for **Chapter of the Year**, came in second place nationally. The Texas Society recognized Chapter 310 as the **Distinguished Chapter of the Texas Society**. Our chapter also received the **Lt. General Simon B. Buckner 100% Retention Award**.

We are especially proud to report our chapter was recognized by the Texas Soci-

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## Members Receive Service Awards

Texas Society Commander Larry Joe Reynolds presented Service Award certificates for members of the Major Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter 310 during the 2023 Annual Texas Society Convention in June. These members have a total of 205-years membership in the Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

We are proud to honor the following members for their continuous service to our chapter and to the MOS&B:

25-Year Service: Gary E. Bates, William V. Scott;

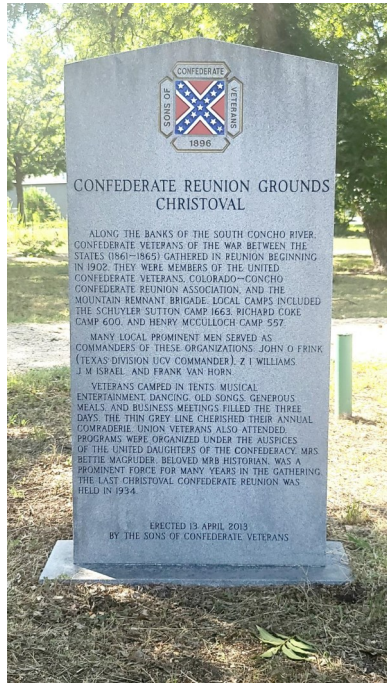
20-Year Service: William F. Bowen, Eddie L. Cox, George Darrell Rhea, Kevin J. Wilson;

15-Year Service: James P. Farrar, William S. Farrar, Ward W. Slack;

5-Year Service: Roy E. Fiveash, Lee F. Hise, Ray B. Johnson, David P. McMahon, Robert Stevens Melton, and James G. Putman.

## Summer Chapter Meeting

Chapter 310 met at the “Old Reunion Grounds” in Christoval, Texas on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup>. There we heard the history of the meeting place for Confederate Veterans that continued till 1934. Here each year the Confederate Veterans camped in tents, entertained with music and dancing, old songs and were feed by locals showing their support for



these mighty warriors. This ‘tent’ city would stretch for three miles on both sides of the Concho River. The local newspapers at the time would print full page stories about the veterans that arrived for the reunion. Afterwards we

went to Cooper’s Bar-B-Q for lunch and held our quarterly meeting. We had several reports on events that members participated in and awards were presented in recognition for years of service in the MOS&B.



## Next Meeting - Zoom Included

Our next meeting is scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup> and we are working on having ‘Zoom’ available for members that are not able to attend in person. With Zoom you can watch/participate in the meet-

ings from your computer, tablet or phone. More information will be made available in the near future. It will be great seeing everyone together, but I am reminded of the commercial where the man gets up

from his computer wearing a coat and tie and his underwear. Don’t be like that guy!



## Commander’s Comments (con’t)

*(Continued from page 1)*

ety Annual Convention as a **Gold-Star Chapter for 2023**. This is an outstanding honor and every member should be proud. Chapter 310 has received the highest awards from the National MOS&B IHQ and from the Texas Society. These awards reflect the participation and dedication of our chapter members, and I could not be prouder.

Due to the great geographical size of our chapter, we will try a combination meeting in September - a tradi-

tional in-person gathering at Fort Concho with a Zoom meeting for members who cannot travel to San Angelo. **Mark Your Calendar – September 16, 2023 – Chapter 310 Fall Meeting in San Angelo and on Zoom!** Details will be emailed out after Labor Day.

Being quite full of BBQ and iced tea, we closed in prayer and traveled home.



Adjutant James Putman (left), receiving the Camp’s Gold Star Award

## Things They Didn't Teach Me In School

Second Sacking, by W.F. Strong

Most Texans believe the Battle of San Jacinto settled everything. Once Mexican Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna was decisively defeated, he signed a treaty guaranteeing Texas independence. So Mexican troops would never again set foot on Texas soil nor darken our door—right?

Not quite. Just six years after Santa Anna's Pyrrhic victory at the Alamo, Mexican forces twice tramped to San Antonio.

First Gen. Rafael Vásquez showed up with 700 men to a mostly evacuated city in March 1842. They headed back across the Rio Grande after just two days, having set off a panic in Texas.

Then six months later, Santa Anna sent another army to sack San Antonio and occupy the Alamo. Gen. Adrián Woll led a force of about 1,400 troops who awakened the town with the heart-stopping boom of a cannon blast at dawn, followed by military trumpeters playing reveille. They quickly pacified minor resistance on their way to the central plaza. This was the

19th-century version of shock and awe.

Near the plaza, Texas patriots quickly put up fierce resistance, shooting through rifle loopholes in the walls, but it was fruitless. They were surrounded by a Mexican force of many hundreds.

How did such a large army make it all the way to San Antonio without anybody noticing? Woll, a French mercenary, was quite wily. He crossed the Rio Grande about

20 miles south of Eagle Pass and then swung north of the most traveled roads, bushwhacking his way through mesquite and mottes of trees.

When the Texians put up the white flag, they asked to return to their homes. Woll told them that "if they did not surrender at discretion, they would be exterminated without exception."

Woll took 62 prisoners, among them several high-value civilians: seven lawyers, a judge, two doctors, a surgeon and prominent business leaders. He told them they would return with him to the border, where they would be released.

Instead, they were marched all the way to Mexico's infamous

Perote Prison, where many were held for two years, subjected to hard labor and chains. A few died en route, and some died in captivity.

Woll didn't occupy San Antonio long. His goal was to be a disruptive force, preventing Texians from feeling secure and also to inhibit migration from the U.S. Woll's other objective was to determine if there were credible military buildups for a Texas invasion of Mexico.

Meanwhile, Texians sounded the alarm that San Antonio had fallen. Volunteers grabbed their guns and saddled their horses. They gathered in Seguin, pushed on to Salado Creek and tempted Woll to pursue them. Woll took the bait, and the Texians, from the cover of the woods, killed and wounded more than 60 Mexican soldiers while the Texians lost only one. Sadly, on another portion of the creek, three dozen Texians were killed.

Santa Anna had once again underestimated Texas. He wanted to unsettle the new republic with fear and chaos and keep them isolated. Instead, he drove the Texians toward a collective desire to join the U.S., which they did six years later.



Six years after the Alamo, Mexican troops twice stormed San Antonio

## Watered Down Genealogy

I just finished the Winter-Spring 2023 edition of "Officer's Call" magazine. If you have not read it, check it out, there is a very nice article titled "Watered Down Genealogy" by our Genealogist General W. Kevin Hawkins. There seems to be the question, "How distant is too distant?", as there are some who say they are related

to General So-n-So, tenth cousin, 25 times removed. General Hawkins reminds us that we are all related through Noah, his wife and three sons, not to mention Adam and Eve. General Hawkins was told by one of his mentors, "You need to reprogram your brain to ask yourself 'HOW I'M RELATED TO AN INDIVIDUAL, NOT IF I'M

RELATED TO AN INDIVIDUAL'". I think it would be great to find out somewhere down the line I am related to General Stonewall Jackson, John Hood, Tom Green, etc. Then I had the most horrifying thought... 'how am I related to Lincoln?'





MAJOR BENJAMIN F. FICKLIN  
CHAPTER 310

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Maj. Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter 310 website: [www.txmosb.org/310/index.html](http://www.txmosb.org/310/index.html).

National website: [www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org](http://www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org)

Texas website: [www.txmosb.org](http://www.txmosb.org)

## Military Order of the Stars and Bars Pledge



*We, the posterity of the Officer Corps and civil officials of the Confederacy, do pledge ourselves to commemorate and honor the service of leadership these men rendered in the cause of the fundamental American principles of self-determination and states' rights and to perpetuate the true history of their deeds for the edification of ourselves, our society and for generations yet unborn.*

## 2023 Texas Society Convention - College Station, Texas



Front row seated left to right: Lt. Cmdr. David McMahon, Cmdr. George Williamson, Past Cmdr. Joe Reynolds, CG Johnnie Holley, ATM Councilor Dennis Brand, Exec. Dir. Jon Trent, Texas JAG Michael A. Smith, and Dr. James Newsom, Editor *Officer's Call*.