



“Major’s Orders”

Major Benjamin F. Ficklin
Chapter 310

Military Order of the
Stars and Bars



VOLUME 2 ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2024

Special Dates of Interest:

October 11-12, 2024—
GEC Meeting in Columbus,
Georgia.

October 11-12, 2024—
Ft. Griffin Living History.

October 14, 2024—
Columbus Day.

October 19, 2024—5th
Annual Miss Lilly Langtry
Birthday Celebration.

October 25-26, 2024—
Ft. Belknap Living History
& Fund Raiser-Kevin
Theis.

October 31, 2024—
Halloween.

November 1-2, 2024—
Texas Society SEC Meeting
in Bryan, Texas.



2024 Texas Society Best Newsletter



Message from CG Thomas B. Rhodes III

Hurricane Helene devastated the Atlantic coast and much of our beloved South this week. Catastrophic flooding is rampant from Florida through Georgia, into The Carolinas, Virginia, Tennessee, and southern Alabama.



Commander General
Thomas B. Rhodes, III
2024 - 2026

Tragically entire communities are destroyed. Families have lost their homes, businesses, and tragically so many lives.

Southerners have generous hearts. We answer the call when disasters strike. We bring bottled water, sandwiches, laundry detergent, and compassion. We pray for quiet moments, hearts filled with comfort, and faith that can only become stronger because of our devotion.

Please pray for our friends and their families overwhelmed by this devastation. Our members live throughout this great country and many are hurting. If you can check on the welfare of a member do so. When recovery efforts begin, consider a donation to assist in local efforts.

Please remember, the *Military Order of the Stars and Bars* is a society built on cherishing the family and our great heritage.

May our prayers be heard and comfort be given to all seeking it.

Thomas B. Rhodes III, DCS
Commander General



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Lt. Commander’s Lowdown

Fall is in the air. Usually, numerous events are planned for this time of year and so it is. There are several Living History and reenactment events on the calendar. Ft. Griffin and Ft. Belknap will have living history programs. There will also be a fund raising event for Kev-

in Theis that weekend at Ft. Belknap. The 5th Annual Miss Lilly Langtry Birthday Celebration will be October 19th in Iraan, Texas. Check out the 'calendar' on our Chapter website for more information.

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Edmund W. Pettus at Vicksburg by Norman Dasinger, Jr., BGES

Constructed along the major east-west railroad track leading into and out of Vicksburg, Mississippi, the Railroad Redoubt (aka Fort Beauregard) witnessed multiple attacks from both Confederate and Federal soldiers on May 22, 1863.

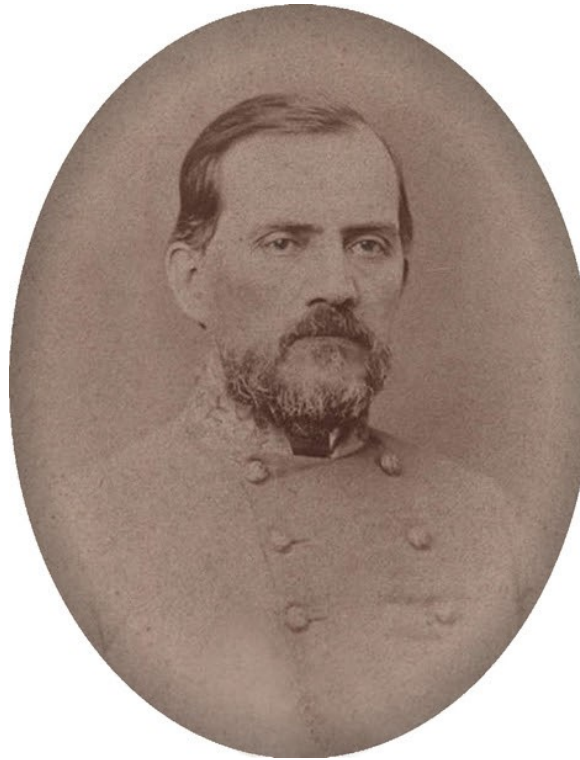
That day, the four-sided fort—part of a vast network of entrenchments enclosing the town—was manned by soldiers of the 30th and 46th Alabama Infantry Regiments, with Waul’s Texas Legion in close support. Because all the officers of the 46th had been captured May 16th at the battle of Champion’s Hill, Col. Edmund W. Pettus of the 20th Alabama was ordered to take command within the redoubt.

At 10 a.m., “Big” Mike Lawler’s Union Brigade, composed mostly of Iowans, led the assaulting force. Their path had been cleared by hours of artillery fire that had bombarded the sleepless Alabamians trapped within the redoubt. That concentrated fire had punched a gap in the Confederate line, which Lawler’s men exploited. The Federals scaled the earthen fort’s walls, drove back the Confederates, and within a little over an hour, the flags of the

77th Illinois and 22nd Iowa were flapping in the summer breeze atop the ram-parts. Success!

However, the assault stalled, giving the Confederates a chance to plan a bold response.

Andrew Miller, one of the rangers at Vicksburg National Military Park, wrote, “The hours ticked away as the Federals, stuck in the ditch outside the Railroad Redoubt, waited through the day’s sweltering heat for support or relief. Soon the Confederates took to rolling artillery shells with lit fuses down the slope.”



Studio portrait of Brig. Gen. Edmund Winston Pettus, C.S.A., 1863.

As the afternoon wore on, the Confederate command decided that Pettus would join forces with the fresh soldiers of Waul’s Texas Legion to retake the position.

In 1907, Pettus wrote, “So, when ordered, I met Colonel Waul and told him what I wanted. He said, ‘I will not order but if any of my companies will volunteer, I will consent ... I told him that about thirty was as many as could be used in so small a place. ... In a moment, I had my band of thirty.’”

Josh Edwards in the March 5, 2015, edition of the Vicksburg Post, wrote, “I [Pettus] was peremptorily ordered ... to take the redoubt. Waul’s Legion and three gallant Alabamians did volunteer, but I as their commander was acting in response to orders.”

The handpicked force was assembled,

(Continued on page 4)



Map of Vicksburg’s rebel batteries in 1863.

Gen. Richard M. Gano: "A Success of Whatever He Touched" by Michael Hurley, BGES.

Richard Gano, a native of Bourbon County, Kentucky, lived a multifaceted life, taking on several different careers. He was born on June 17, 1830, the grandson of Gen. Richard M. Gano, a veteran of the War of 1812. And he went on to live a fascinating life.

Medical Career

Richard Gano graduated from Bethany College in West Virginia in 1847; received his medical degree from the Louisville Medical University in Kentucky in 1849; and practiced medicine for eight years, first in Kentucky, then in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; before moving to Texas in 1857.

Cattleman

He purchased land on Grapevine Prairie in Tarrant County, near the present-day city of Grapevine, Lake Grapevine, and the acreage on which DFW International Airport now sits. His initial frontier homestead is still standing and in use.

Politician

When trouble started popping up on the northwestern frontier of Texas with the advent of 1858 raids by the Comanche Indians in Parker and Wise Counties, Gano helped raise a defense force and pursue the Comanche. The campaign lasted several weeks, and when the company returned home to the citizens of Tarrant County, they presented Gano with a costly sword in recognition of his leadership and also elected him Tarrant County Representative in the Texas legislature at Austin in 1858.

Soldier

Gano resigned from the legislature in January 1862 to enter the Confederate Army as a cavalry captain. He rose through the ranks to brigadier general and served with the Army of Tennessee in 42 engagements, beginning in the spring of 1863. He later commanded Texas cavalry units along the Red River. In all, he served in 72 engagements but, according to Sam Acheson in his book, *Dallas Yesterday*, "was never taken prisoner" and "was successful in all but four." A minie ball broke his left arm, and "while in service, he had five horses shot from under him, three animals being killed."

Cattleman (Again)

After the war, Gano returned to Texas, settling in Dallas County, where he resumed farming and ranching. He was one of the first Texas cattlemen to import fine-blooded cattle into the state, and he later developed a ranch to breed and train harness horses.

Preacher

In 1866, Gano, who had been baptized in the church while in Kentucky, began his own active career in the ministry of the Churches of Christ. At the end of the next quarter century, according to Acheson, Gano "had been very successful, having baptized about 4,000 people, besides establishing a large number of Churches of Christ" in the modern Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, many of which still exist to this day.

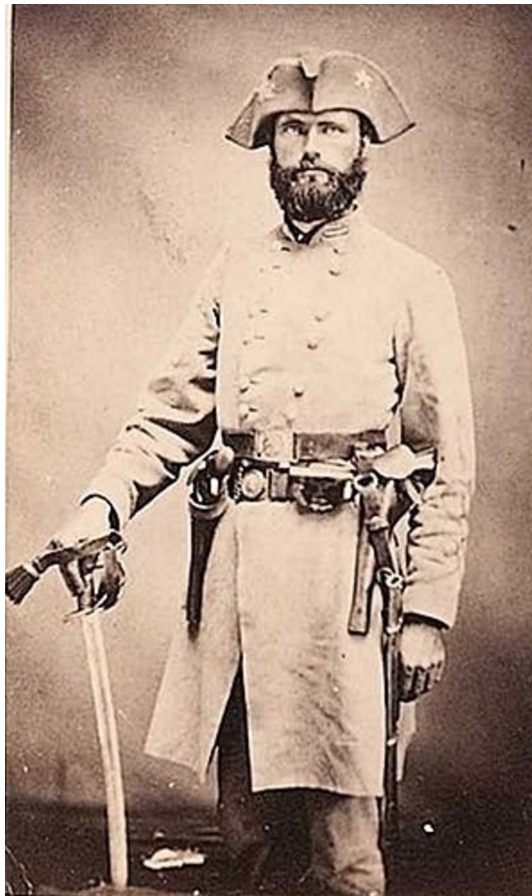
Gano came from a long line of gospel preachers. His great-grandfather, John Gano, served as an army chaplain during the American Revolutionary War. Chaplain Gano was said to have been a personal friend of General Washington. Acheson wrote, "of [John] Gano having baptized General Washington in the field by immersion, as Gen. Washington had become dissatisfied with the baptism his church [the established Church of England] had administered." General Gano's father was active as a gospel preacher for 60 years in the Churches of Christ in Kentucky and is credited with, according to Acheson, "baptizing 10,000 men, women, and children."

General Gano was a firm believer in Christ his whole life and practiced abstinence from what he believed were terrible habits. He never drank a cup of coffee or tea, smoked a cigar, used tobacco in

any form, or drank any spirits as beverages.

He was an elder of the Central Church of Christ in Dallas, Texas, when he died at his daughter's home on March 27, 1913. He and his wife, Margret, are buried in the Oakland Cemetery in Dallas.

Today, the Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp in Grapevine, Texas, is named in his honor.



Richard M. Gano during the Civil War.



Lt. Commander’s Lowdown

(con’t)

(Continued from page 1)

During the month the General Executive Council will be meeting in Columbus, Georgia, October 11-12, and the Texas Society SEC will be meeting November 1-2 in Bryan, Texas.

As we are all aware, hurricane Helene pounded the South pretty good. Please be in prayer for those affected and support our fellow Compatriots as you are able.

In a quick update on the Situation with Fairmount Cemetery, the city attorney refused to meet with the public and approved the 'flag policy' for a vote. The board of ignorance voted, with one minor change, to implement the policy, so once again the Texas and Mexican flags are banned from being placed on graves.

On the lighter side, the creator of the cartoon characters, Beavis and Butt-head, Rick Parker, has written a 'graphic novel' about his experiences when drafted during the Vietnam War. The novel, "Drafted", follows his time in college, dropping out and being drafted and what Army life was like. Rick writes, hand draws and hand letters the book and it is said to be "charming and funny."

As we enter into October, we start the beginnings of our dues renewal time. The renewal notices should be coming out soon, so keep an eye out for it in your mailbox.

Our next Chapter event will be a gathering at "Christmas at Old Ft. Concho" December 7th. This event begins on Friday the 6th with a living history of fort life for school children. Saturday there are artillery and infantry demonstrations, Indian dances, settlers, sheriffs, cowboys, ladies and even WW II soldiers present. Shopping, we can not forget about shopping for those one of a kind Christmas presents from the many vendors.

As of October 1st, we have 35 days to elections. I will encourage all of our members to get out and vote.

Until next time, be safe, see y'all later.



Edmund W. Pettus at Vicksburg

(con't)

(Continued from page 2)

and before the sun could set, they moved into position. Pettus, "musket in hand," led the assaulting party into the fort, fully securing it and capturing the colors of the 77th Illinois.

Waul reported, "The coolness, courage, and intre-

pidity manifested deserves the highest praise for ever officer and man engaged in the hazardous enterprise."

Federal soldiers would never again assault Fort Beauregard. However, all the defenders of Vicksburg would surrender to Union General U.S. Grant on July 4, 1863.



The surrender at Vicksburg on July 4, 1863.

YOU ARE INVITED

Living History Weekend

OCTOBER 4th & 5th, 2024

Powell Park 7th St & Corsicana St.

WELLINGTON TEXAS



Friday Oct 4th School Day

All Area Schools and Public Invited

Food Vendors will be available

Saturday Oct 5th

Chili Cookoff \$25 Team Entry Fee

\$5 Taste All Chili

Best Chili \$500 - Weatherly Roofing

2nd Place Chili \$200 - Wellington State Bank

3rd Place Chili \$100 - Bartlett Lumber



Ice Cream Freeze-off

\$10 Entry Fee

\$2 Taste All Ice Cream

Best Ice Cream \$250 - Collingsworth Co. Farm Bureau

2nd Place Ice Cream \$100 - Collingsworth Co. Farm Bureau

3rd Place Ice Cream \$50 - Collingsworth Co. Farm Bureau

Hosted by: Sons of Confederate Veterans

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Maj. Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter 310 website: www.txmosb.org/310/index.html

MOS&B National website: www.mosbhq.org

Texas Society website: 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.

