



DECEMBER 2023

Major's Orders

Major Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter 310

Military Order of the Stars and Bars



VOLUME I ISSUE 12

Special Dates of Interest:

December 1-3, 2023

Christmas at Old Ft. Concho & Winter Rendezvous.

December 2, 2023 Quarterly Meeting of Major Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter 310.

December 25, 2023 Christmas Day.

January 1, 2024 New Years Day.

March 14-17, 2024 MOS&B GEC Spring Quarterly meeting at 'The Lodge', Pickwick Landing, Counce, Tennessee.

March 22-23, 2024 MOS&B Texas Society SEC meeting at the Hilton Conference Center, College Station, Texas.

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Lt. Commander's Lowdown

Here comes Santa Claus, here comes Santa Claus... Howdy y'all, Christmas is upon us with all the hustle and bustle of shopping, traffic, gathering with the in-laws and exhaustion. Oh, and let's not forget, more food! I just love this time of the year...because it means it is time for 'Christmas at Old Ft. Concho'. I hope to see you all at this fantastic event. It is a great time of Southern gathering, meeting new people and educating them to their heritage.

The Fort will have many vendors there for the little shopper of the family, entertainment for the kids and re-enactors from several eras of the past. The weather looks as though it will be very nice this year, so hope to see you there.

The Maj. Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter #310 will hold it's quarterly meeting at this event in between troop activities.

Our Texas Society is growing, we have

gained 12 new members across the state since June of this year. We are also in our 'dues renewal' time, so if you have not renewed your dues for 2024, now is the time.

Also in Texas Society news, if you have not heard, we have a Facebook page. Those wishing access to the Facebook page will go through a vetting process. We have a new Web Master General, Jimmy Stephens. He is updating the National website and has promised to have a 'Members Only' section up and running soon.

The Veteran's Day event at Fairmount Cemetery proceeded without an important element, that being the members of Maj. Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter #310 and Gen. Tom Green Camp #1613, SCV, firing line and artillery. However, it seems that those that wrote

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Meeting at Ft. Concho – 2 December

Saturday, December 2, 2023, the Major Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter #310 will have their quarterly meeting at Ft. Concho. This meeting will be in conjunction with the "Christmas at Old Ft. Concho & Winter Rendezvous" event.

We will assemble by the Company 'H', 7th Texas Infantry tent located on the south side of the parade grounds (across from the Officer's quarters buildings). Look for the Flags of the Confederacy.

Come on out and enjoy the good weather and fellowship with Southern Minded people. See the Artillery and Infantry re-enactors in action. Do some shopping, exploring and enjoy yourself.

Maj. Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter #310 meeting, December 2, 2023, 1:00 pm at the Co. H, 7th Texas Infantry tent located on the south side of Ft. Concho parade grounds.



Christmas *At* Old Fort Concho

A wonderful weekend of Christmas fun, shopping, and entertainment all on the historic fort grounds.

Friday, Dec. 1st	3pm - 8pm
Saturday, Dec. 2nd	9am-7pm
Sunday, Dec. 3rd	11am-4pm

Featured Events & Great Attractions

Lions Pancakes with Santa Join Santa for pancakes on Saturday morning. Bring the whole family! Skip the line by taking advantage of a great deal and purchase the combo breakfast/admission ticket. Hosted by the San Angelo Lions Clubs. Breakfast will be served in the Stables from 7:30 am - 11:00 am \$8.00 per person for breakfast only, \$12.00 per person for breakfast/event admission, Children four and under FREE

Cowboy Chuck Wagon Breakfast and Service Join us for a classic chuck wagon breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits & gravy, fried taters, and coffee. Sunday morning from 9:00 am to 10:00 am hosted by the San Angelo Cowboy Church. \$13.00 per person in the Stables. Also, join us for an old-fashioned church service with preaching and singing that is free to all.

Christmas Shopping in the Historic Fort Buildings Browse through Officers' Row, Commissary and Barracks Row for unique gift ideas brought to you by merchants and artisans from around the state and nation.

A Musical Night In Another Century Join the Sweet Song String Band as we dance the night away to music of previous centuries. Music begins at 7:00 pm and we welcome everyone with free admission.

Santa's House Come join Santa and Mrs. Claus in their workshop in the Headquarters Building. Photos will be available for a small fee and fun crafts will be available for children! Be sure to see the Nativity Festival, where we will have nativity scenes on display from around the world!

Chapel The old-fashioned sounds of Christmas come alive with area church choirs, special entertainers, and Sunday Mass at 10:00 am with Msgr Gully.

Entertainment Enjoy the talents of entertainers all around the fort! Period bands, Indian Dancers, and the Trick Roper will all be on hand to delight both old and young! Come out and cheer for your favorite team! The Fort Concho Enterprise will take the field on Saturday to demonstrate base ball as played at the fort.

Gingerbread House & Christmas Cookie Display Step into the Quartermaster Building to see fanciful gingerbread houses and cookies decked out in their holiday best. Check out creativity in frosting and discover the contest winners!

Winter Rendezvous See the soldiers and civilians of the past brought to life by living history reactors on the historic Parade Ground.

Concho Cowboy Company in Old Santa Angela Visit the Concho Cowboy Company in Old Santa Angela and get a glimpse of some of the best the wild and wooly west has to offer! Hang around on Saturday at 11:30 am & 2:30 pm and Sunday at 2:30 pm to enjoy one of their award-winning skits.

Admission Prices:

<p>Daily Adults - \$7.00 • Seniors (60 plus) & Military - \$6.00 Passes: Children (7-17) - \$3.00 • Children 6 & Under - Free</p>	<p>Weekend Adults - \$14.00 • Seniors (60 plus) & Military - \$12.00 Passes: Children (7-17) - \$3.00 • Children 6 & Under - Free</p>
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For more information call (325) 481-2646 or visit www.fortconcho.com

Fort Concho National Historic Landmark - 630 S. Oakes - San Angelo, TX 76903

Proceeds benefit ongoing restoration projects and educational programs at Fort Concho National Historic Landmark.

Santos Benavides & "Take No Prisoners!"

by Richard Garcia

Hispanic Confederates, by John O'Donnell Rosales, notes that about 12,000 Hispanics served in the Confederacy during the Civil War. Of these, there were about 2,500 to 3,000 Texan Mexicans called Tejanos who fought for the South.



Col. José de los Santos Benavides, CSA, in the 1860s

One of the most famous Tejanos was Col. José de los Santos Benavides, the commanding officer of the 33rd Texas Cavalry. A native of Laredo, Texas, during his service to the Confederate Army, Benavides tirelessly maneuvered his soldiers across the deserts of the southwest, fighting in approximately 100 battles. Highly respected, he earned the nickname "The Tejano Tiger" and became the highest-ranking Tejano to serve in the Confederacy. His troops' battle cry was "*¡Viva La Confederación!*" or "Long Live the Confederacy!"

In May 1861, Union sympathizer Juan Cortina and his followers staged a revolt against the Confederate government in south Texas and attacked the village of Carri-

zo. At a ranch outside the village, Benavides' Tejano cavalry confronted Cortina's men, pushing them into the Rio Grande. In a note, Benavides showed his ruthless side, and said "I particularly ordered my men not to arrest any of the bandits, but to kill all that fell into their hands. Consequently, I have no prisoners."

Benavides crossed paths with the brutal highwayman Octaviano Zapata, from northern Mexico, who along with his bandits terrorized the Rio Grande Valley. The Zapatistas were referred to as *Unionistas* and were supported by U.S. Consul Leonard Pierce, Jr., in Mexico. Union officers in consult with Judge Edmund Davis met with President Lincoln, who approved the idea to use Mexican and Tejano recruiters called *Enganchados* to hook men into the Union army. They were provided with uniforms and weapons and paid in gold and land. Flying the U.S. flag during their raids, they were considered the First Regiment of Union troops



Juan Cortina

in Texas. Their battle cry was "*¡Que Viva La Unión!*" or "Long Live the Union!"

In December 1862, the Zapatistas raided Confederate wagons near Camp Ringgold, Texas. Five Confederates were killed and one escaped. They also captured and hung County Judge Isidro Vela, a Confederate supporter. These activities initiated an extradition agreement between Mexican governor Albino Lopez of Tamaulipas and Confederate general Hamilton P. Bee of Fort Brown allowing Confederate soldiers to cross the border to pursue bandits.

The Zapatistas attacked Mexican soldiers in August 1863, between Guerrero and Mier, Mexico. The mayor of Guerrero asked Benavides to intervene. With 79 men of the 33rd Texas Cavalry, Benavides men surprised the Zapata camp. Ten bandits lay dead from the fighting including Zapata who had his skull bashed in with a rifle butt.

Perhaps his most significant engagement was the Battle of Laredo. During three heavy attacks on March 18, 1864, Benavides and his men defeated the U.S. 1st Texas Cavalry and saved 5,000 bales of cotton.

Benavides also fought at the last land battle of the war: the Battle of Palmito Ranch, on May 12–13, 1865.

In the Command of the Line of the Rio Grande, Benavides will be remembered as one of the most respected military leaders in Texas.



Richard Garcia serves as the 2nd Lieutenant Commander of the Tennessee Division Sons of Confederate Veterans



MAJOR BENJAMIN F. FICKLIN
CHAPTER 310

COMMANDER DAVID P. MCMAHON
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Maj. Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter 310 website: www.txmosb.org/310/index.html.

National website: www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org

Texas 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.

Lt. Commander's Lowdown (con't)

(Continued from page 1)

letters to the board of directors did make some impact as there were numerous Texas flags placed on the graves of Confederate veterans. Of course this act was not in compliance with their "official American flags only" policy that the board made but, it shows a crack in their decision. I will mention the fact that we must remember, that many of the Confederate veterans buried in Fairmount served in other states' military forces. Someone out there knows this, as they placed a 'new' Mississippi state flag on a Confederate veteran's grave. It has also been discovered that this board of directors

did all this policy making in meetings that did not have a quorum in which to conduct business. Ooooh, I see that 'crack' getting bigger.

I reported in the March issue of "Major's Orders" about the possibility that 2023 would be the last year for Mort Kunstler's "Civil War" series calendars and it seem it is. I have searches for the 2024 calendars to no avail.

Y'all have a Merry Christmas, I pray the Lord's blessings upon you and your families, Peace and Protection.

Happy New Year!

This image is from a Christmas card found at confederateshop.com

