



JUNE 2023

# Major's Orders

Major Benjamin F. Ficklin  
Chapter 310 – San Angelo  
Military Order of the Stars and Bars



VOLUME I | ISSUE 6

## Special points of interest:

### 9-10 June 2023

*Texas Society Convention, College Station.*

### 24 June 2023

*Chapter 310 Meeting in Christoval, Texas. Information inside.*

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## Comments from the Commander

I am between annual conference's having just returned from Lubbock and getting ready for College Station. The SCV event, held in Lubbock this year was a great success under the guidance of Chapter 310's own Adjutant, James Putman, the host camp Commander. I just hope that I see as many MOSB brothers at our own event this weekend.

Annual meetings are of course meant to conduct the business of the organization, but are also a great time to see old friends and catch up with each other.

Both the SCV and the MOSB will have elected new Commanders and Lieutenants and the hope of these men will be what carried us into the future. I

look forward to my new position and being a friend to our new commander. It has been my pleasure to serve the Texas Division these past six years as your Adjutant. I am proud to hand off everything in great shape.

I look forward to seeing many of you this weekend and know that I have your support as we start this new adventure together.

**Deo Vindice,**

David McMahan, DCS

Chapter 310 Commander



## Treasures in the Cemetery

Chapter member David Johnson, was walking the Fairmount Cemetery a few weeks ago and discovered a most memorable find. Within the Erwin Family plots, he discovered the Military Marker for Walton A. Erwin, who was one of over a thousand sailors

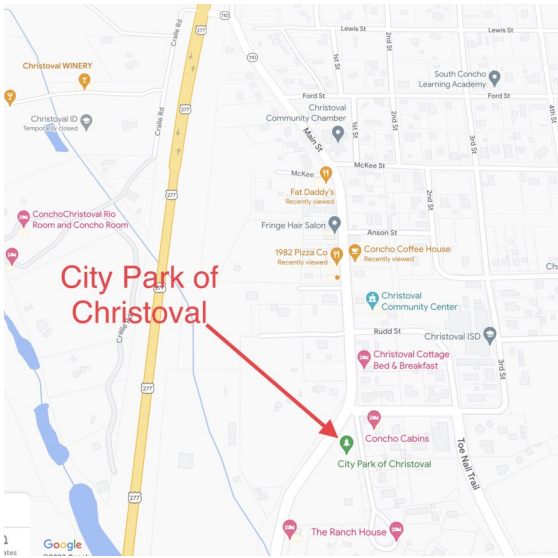
that went down with the USS Arizona, December 7, 1941.

Walton Aluard Erwin was born June 27, 1921 to George R. & Bertha Darden Erwin, in Nimrod, Texas. He was a graduate of San Angelo High School in 1940 and

entered the Navy in November that same year. From basic training in San Diego, Ca., he sailed to Hawaii where he was stationed on the USS Arizona, BB-39.

This young man's life was cut short by the (con't on page 3)

## Major Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter 310 Next Meeting June 24



The Major Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter 310 will meet in Christoval, Texas at 10:00 am, **Saturday, June 24, 2023.** We will assemble at the 'Old Reunion Grounds' Monument located in the Christoval City Park. We will have a program about the 'Old Reunion Grounds' and then have lunch at one of the local eateries while having our quarterly meeting. Please make plans to attend.



Commander David McMahon (L), Judge Lane Carter (R)

## MOS&B Members Receive Appointments to Tom Green County Historic Honor Guard

On April 18, 2023, the Tom Green County Commissioners Court renewed appointments to the Tom Green County Historic Honor Guard unit. Originally established in 2010, this historical unit was created to present the colors and provide honor guard services for community events, according to Golda Fos-

ter, Chair of the Tom Green County Historical Commission. Original members have served three County Judges in the past 13 years. These men received a unit medal with a three-star device indicating their three terms of service. New members received a medal with a single- (con't page 6)



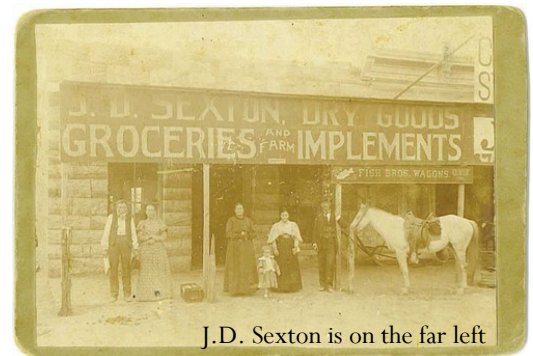
James Dickerson Sexton

## James Dickerson (J.D.) Sexton

James Dickerson (J.D.) Sexton was born in Tennessee in 1830 to Elijah and Temperance Sexton. J.D. grew up around Haywood, Tennessee and later moved to Tippah, Mississippi and married Francis Elizabeth Crowder in 1852. It is here that he farmed and started raising his family. By 1860, J.D. and Elizabeth had 4 chil-

dren, one being my Great Grandfather, William Oliver Sexton. As northern aggression and radical republicanism swept the country and then, northern invasion of Southern States, J.D.

enlisted in the Mississippi 1<sup>st</sup> Partisan (con't page 4)



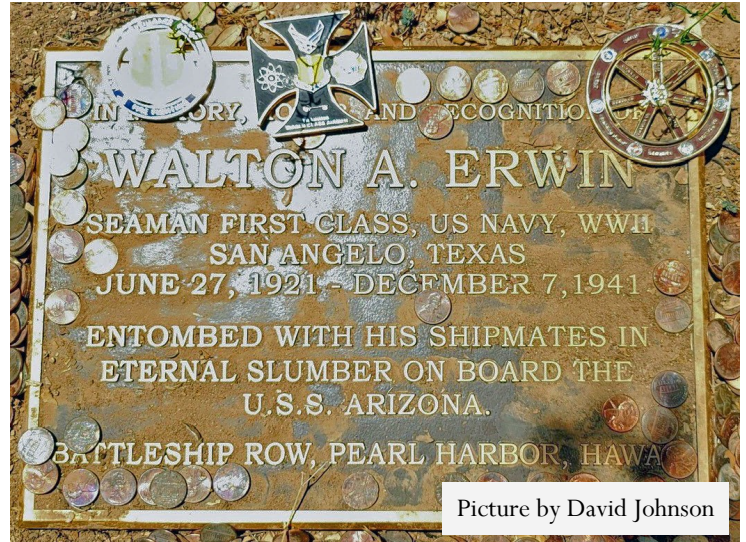
## Treasures in the Cemetery (con't)

devastating attack by the Japanese Imperial Navy. Erwin had attained the rank of Seaman 1st Class.

Being fascinated by David Johnson's find, I did a search on Walton Erwin and found that he did not serve alone, two other men from San Angelo were crew mem-

bers aboard the USS Arizona on that fateful morning.

Boatswain's Mate 1st Class James Albert Martin joined



**ERWIN, WALTON A.**  
S 1/c Walton A. Erwin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. R. Erwin, 612 E. 16th, San Angelo, attended SAHS. Entered Navy, 1940, trained in San Diego. Served in Hawaii. Awarded Purple Heart and Pres. Cit. Killed on USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor Raid, Dec. 7, 1941.

the Navy in June, 1933 and served his entire military service on the 'Arizona'. He was cited for 'courageous action' earlier in 1941 when he swam out to a vessel that had stranded itself on a coral reef, saving the lives of several men. He, too, is entombed within the Arizona.

Gunner's Mate 1st Class Ernest M. Shawn lived with his

family on West 20th Street working for his father's grocery store as a delivery driver before joining the Navy in the summer of 1940. In the chaos of the attack, Shawn was able to dive into the waters and swim to Ford Island as the Ship sank. Ernest Shawn went on to fight in the 'Battle of Midway' and the Solomon Island campaign. He was one of a few survivors of the Arizona's sinking and he returned to live in San Angelo. He died June 28, 1998 and is buried in the Belvedere Cemetery on Arden Road.

## Memorial Day at Ft. Concho

Chapter members attended the Memorial Day Services at Fort Concho on the 29th. There was a crowd of 50+, special guests and the Texas State Salvation Army Band, which performed several songs for the event.

Members include, David

Johnson, Rod Smith, Steve Melton, Commander David McMahon, and Charles Westbrook. Also in the Musket Salute was Gaylan Harrison. Fort Concho provided an Artillery salute. This yearly event is sponsored by the Daughter's of the American Revolution.



# June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Texas Soci- ety Convention	10 Texas Soci- ety Convention
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Chapter 310 meeting in Christoval.
25	26	27	28	29	30	

- June 9-10 Texas Society Convention at College Station, Texas.
- June 24 Major Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter 310 meeting in Christoval, Texas. Gather at the “Old Reunion Grounds” monument—10:00am.

## James Dickerson Sexton (con't)

Rangers, also known as Falkner’s Regiment, which was formed in the summer of 1862 at Tippah, Mississippi. J.D. was in “B” Company under Captain Hovis and served as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. 2nd Lt. Sexton’s military career was rather short as he was wounded in the Battle of luka, Mississippi, 19 September 1862. His wound caused him to resign in early 1863 as he could no longer carry out his duties.

After the war, J.D. continued farming in Mississippi and later moved back to Haywood, Tennessee by 1880. Just a few years later the Sextons moved to Texas. J.D. and

his wife, Elizabeth owned a Dry Goods Store in Goldthwaite, Texas. J.D. was a member of the Jeff Davis Camp 117, UCV in Goldthwaite. You will find J.D. Sexton’s name listed on the Confederate Monument located on the lawn of the Mills County Courthouse.

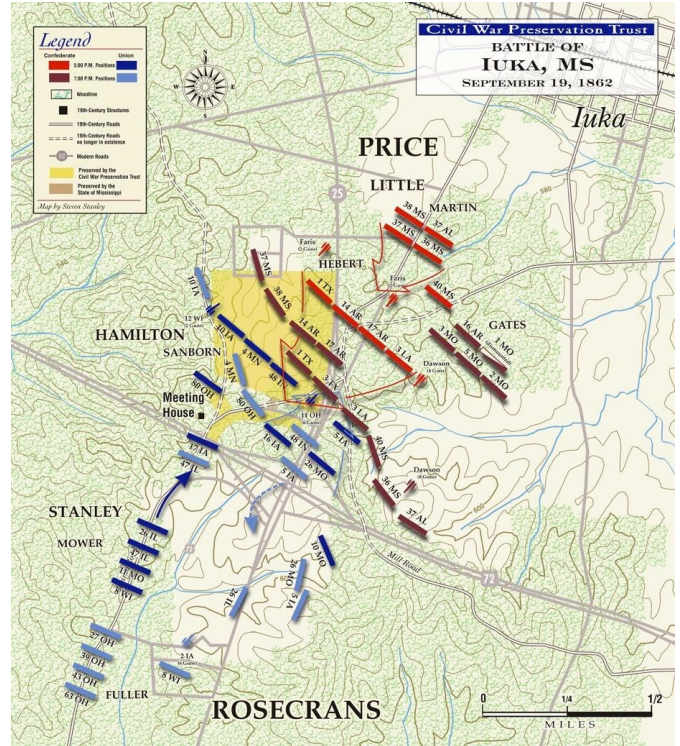
The 1st Partisan Rangers was temporarily disbanded on 11/15/1862 and re-organized on 3/1/1863. It’s designation was changed to the 7th Mississippi Cavalry by S.O. #169 & I.G.O. dated 7/19/1864.



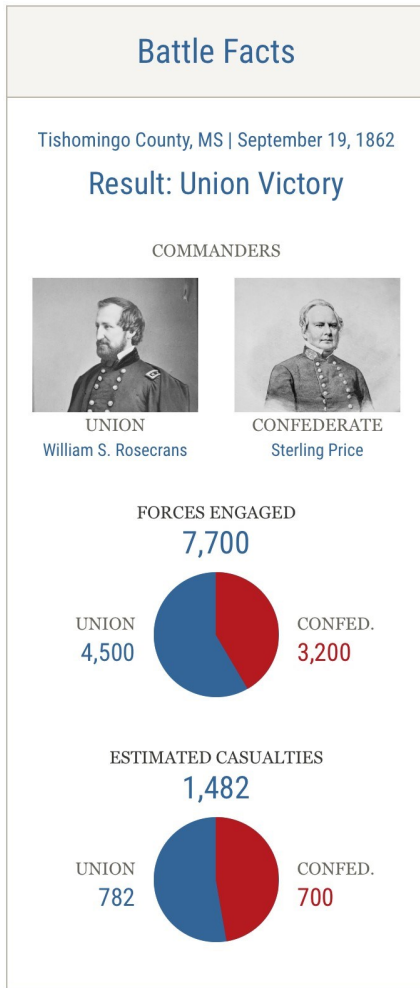
[I read several versions about the Battle of Iuka, Mississippi and found that Union versions tended to over state Confederate numbers, strengths and casualties. This report comes from "American Battlefield Trust."]

Maj. Gen. Sterling Price's Army of the West main column marched into Iuka, Mississippi, on September 14. Price's superior, Gen. Braxton Bragg, the commander of the Confederate Army of the Mississippi, who was leading an offensive deep into Kentucky, ordered him to prevent Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans's Army of the Mississippi troops from moving into Middle Tennessee and reinforcing Brig. Gen. James Negley's division of Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell's Army of the Ohio, which was garrisoning Nashville.

Price had about 14,000 men, and he was informed that, if necessary, he could request assistance from Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn, commanding the District of the Mississippi, headquartered at Holly Springs. Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, commanding the Army of the Tennessee, feared that Price intended to go north to join Bragg against Buell. Grant devised a plan for his left wing commander, Maj. Gen. E.O.C. Ord, and his men to advance on Iuka from the west; Rosecrans's forces were to march from the south-



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from Van Dorn suggesting that their two armies rendezvous, as soon as possible, at Rienzi for attacks on the Federal forces in the area. Price informed Van Dorn that the military situation had changed so he could not evacuate Iuka immediately. He did, however, issue orders for his men to prepare for a march the next day, to rendezvous with Van Dorn. Rosecrans's army marched early on the 19th, but instead of using two roads as directed, it followed the Jacinto (Bay Springs) Road. After considering the amount of time that

Rosecrans required to reach Iuka, Grant determined that he probably would not arrive on the 19th, so he ordered Ord to await the sound of fighting between Rosecrans and Price before engaging the Confederates. As Rosecrans advanced, his men fought actions with Confederate troops at points along the way. About 4:00 pm, just after ascending a hill, the Union column halted because the Confederates were well-placed below in a ravine, filled with timber and underbrush. The Confederates launched attacks up the hill, capturing a six-gun Ohio battery, while the Federals counterattacked from the ridge. Fighting, which Price later stated he had "never seen surpassed," continued until after dark; the Union troops camped for the night behind the ridge. Price had redeployed troops from Ord's front to fight against Rosecrans's people. Ord did nothing, later proclaiming that he never heard any fighting and, therefore, never engaged the enemy; Grant (con't page 7)

# MOS&B Members Receive Appointments to Tom Green County Historic Honor Guard (con't)

received a medal with a single-star device.

Appointments renewed include the following members: David McMahon, David M. Johnson, Charles A. Westbrook, and Rod Smith. Newly appointed members include R. Stevens Melton, Will V. Scott, and Roy Fiveash. Congratulations to our MOS&B members on this outstanding appointment.

Members of this historic unit wear uniforms and gear reflecting the military history of our nation from the American Revolution, French-Indian Wars, War of 1812, War for Texas Independence, Mexican War,

the War Between the States (Union and Confederate), Indian Wars, and the Spanish American War.

The uniforms and accouterments are provided by each member. As volunteers, these members do not receive compensation.



David Johnson (L),  
Judge Lane Carter (R)



Judge Carter (L), Will V. Scott (R)



Judge Carter (L), Steve Melton (R)



MAJOR BENJAMIN F. FICKLIN  
CHAPTER 310

COMMANDER DAVID P. MCMAHON  
LT. COMMANDER ROBERT S. MELTON  
ADJUTANT JAMES G. PUTMAN  
EDITOR ROBERT S. MELTON

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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.*

### Battle of Iuka, Mississippi (con't)

also remarked that he had heard no sounds of battle. Following the fighting on the 19th, Price determined to reengage the enemy the next day, but his subordinates convinced him, instead, to march to join Van Dorn, as earlier planned. At the same time, Rosecrans redeployed his men for fighting the next day. Price's army evacuated via the uncovered Fulton Road, protected its rear with a heavy rearguard and hooked up with Van Dorn five days later at



General Price

Ripley. Although Rosecrans was supposed to traverse Fulton Road and cover it, he stated that he had not guarded the road because he feared dividing his force; Grant later approved this decision. Rosecrans's army occupied Iuka and then mounted a pursuit; the Confederate rearguard and overgrown terrain prevented the Union pursuit from accomplishing much. The Federals should have destroyed or captured Price's army, but instead the Rebels joined Van Dorn and assaulted Corinth in October

[There were reports that I read explaining that General Grant gave orders to Major

General Ord to engage the Confederates when he heard the "sounds of battle" from Rosecrans' engaging the Confederates.

It was also said that that General Grant was probably in his tent drunk, that is why he did not hear the fighting between Rosecrans and Price.]