



APRIL 2024

“Major’s Orders”

Major Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter 310

Military Order of the Stars and Bars



VOLUME 2 ISSUE 4

Special Dates of Interest:

April 6, 2024—San Angelo Rodeo Parade.

April 13, 2024—Crawfish & Cannons at Ft. Belknap.

April 20, 2024—Frontier Day & Pancake Breakfast, Ft. Concho.

April 27, 2024—San Jacinto Veterans Day/Confederate Heritage Memorial Day at Fairview Cemetery, 10:00 am.

May 16-19, 2024—87th Annual National General Convention, Springfield, Missouri .

June 6-9, 2024 - Texas Society Convention at the Hilton College Station Conference Center, College Station, Texas.

Lt. Commander’s Lowdown

I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter. We hope for April showers to bring May flowers, maybe the flowers would choke out my weeds! But on to other things. This month is packed with many events. Saturday the 6th, is the Dan Angelo Rodeo Parade. There will be a gathering of members from Major Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter 310, General Tom Green Camp 1613 and Ft. McKavett CSA Camp 2326 at the Girl Scout house at 0700 for decorating the two floats. Come out and ride the floats supporting our Confederate Heritage. On April 13th, the annual "Crawfish and Cannons" at Ft. Belknap will be going on with food (crawfish), concert and 5K, 10K and half marathon runs. April 20th will be "Frontier Day" at Ft. Concho with their annual Pancake Breakfast. We will be joining the Tom Green County Historical Commission at their table for recruiting into our Order. If you would like to sit in at the table for an hour, contact Commander McMahon at 325-374-3070. The time period is from 0730 to 12 noon. April 27th there will be a San Jacinto/Confederate Me-

morial Veterans Day at Fairmount Cemetery at 10:00 am. Come out and honor our Confederate and Texas heroes. Anyone wishing to participate in the firing line, please arrive no later than 0930. Speaking of Fairmount Cemetery, at the March meeting of the Board of Directors, the members were notified that they "have no flag policy." The policy they put in place was not entered into the minutes of the meeting and the city attorney informed them, "no policy." I heard one of the board members say later that she was going to ban Confederate flags. This is going to be fun, y'all! If anyone is going to be in the Jefferson, Texas area May 3-5, 2024, They are having a "Battle for Jefferson" reenactment. You can find more information at: <http://battleforjefferson.com/>. Stay healthy and be safe out there, till next month.



Inside this issue:

Michael Douglas 2
Portrays Benjamin

Colonel Joseph 2
Kelly

Lewis Pinkney 3
Brooks, 2nd Lt.

4

Chaplain’s Dispatch

Church Growth: Holed up in the fort or out on the trail?

It’s often said one should never discuss three things at a dinner party: money, religion and politics. However, it seems all three dominate the headlines of our news media. Yet, one is my vocational calling, religion. This week I read a Gallop News article about the decline of religious affiliation in the United States. The article stated the first time Gallop measured church



membership was in 1937. The question asked, “Do you attend a church, synagogue or a mosque?” In 1937 seventy-three percent of Americans answered yes. At the conclusion of World War Two that number rose to seventy-six percent. It hovered in the 70s until 2000 where it has

(Continued on page 4)

Michael Douglas Portrays Benjamin Franklin In TV Series

A new series on Apple TV+ about Benjamin Franklin will be out April 12th. Michael Douglas will be portraying Ben Franklin.

Benjamin Franklin, the oldest of America's Founding



Fathers, was also arguably the most important in securing American independence, though he never led armies or became president of the United States, like

George Washington. He was also 70 years old when he landed on the shores of France in 1776 with the singular goal of convincing the French it was in their best interest to join the war against Britain.

Though public sentiment in France was decidedly in favor of joining the war, the court of King Louis XVI was hesitant to get involved. Going to war with Great Britain not only carried a lot of risk, it carried a heavy price tag. Franklin played the part of a rough, New World frontiersmen to the letter, right down to the clothes and fur hat he wore to court. The image he presented, along with his writing and connections, captured the imagination of the French people.



Colonel Joseph Kelly

Irish-born Joseph Kelly was a veteran of the British Army who immigrated to the United States and became a grocer in St. Louis. Kelly became captain of the Washington Blues militia company in 1857. This was an entirely Irish company and one of the most prestigious militia organizations in St. Louis.

The Washington Blues made up only part of Kelly's 1st Rifle Regiment, which consisted of a few other Irish companies out of St. Louis as well. After serving in the Missouri State Guard, they were transferred to Confederate service in early 1862, later becoming Company F, 5th Missouri Infantry, which was part of Cockrell's 1st Missouri Brigade.

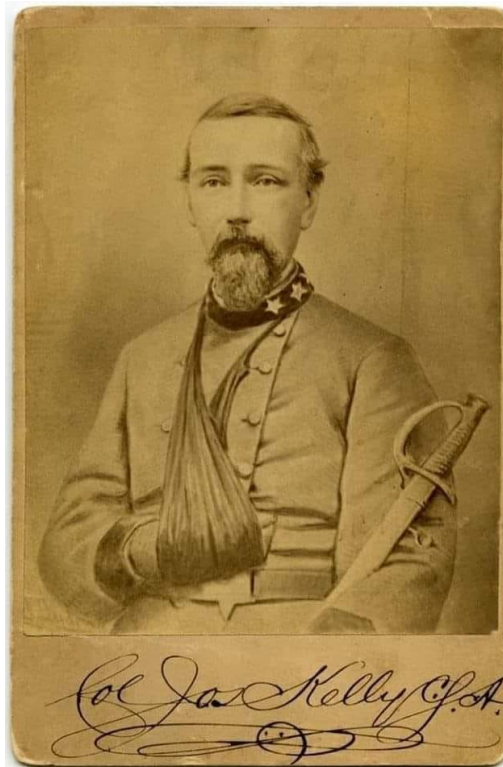
In May 1861, Kelly was ordered to take his company to Jefferson City as an escort for arms and gunpowder, thereby avoiding the so-called "Camp Jackson Massacre."

Kelly and his men soon became Company A, 1st Infantry Regiment, Sixth Division, Missouri State Guard, fighting

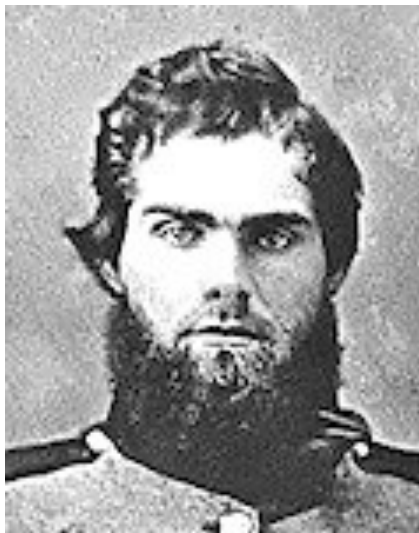
at Boonville, Carthage, Wilson's Creek, Lexington and Pea Ridge. In June 1861, Kelly was promoted to colonel and commander of the 1st Infantry. Wounded in the right hand at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, Kelly continued to command the regiment, but briefly assumed command of the Sixth Division of the Missouri State Guard in April 1862 before resigning.

In late 1862, he was appointed to the staff of Brigadier General Mosby M. Parsons, serving with Parsons for the remainder of the war and eventually rising to the rank of colonel.

After the war he returned to St. Louis, where his daughter and son-in-law were raising his other children. His health ruined by the war, Kelly died there on May 29, 1870, at the age of 53. Kelly is buried in the McGrath family plot in Calvary Cemetery.



Lewis Pinkney Brooks, 2nd Lt., 7th Georgia Infantry



Lewis Pinkney Brooks enlisted in Company B, 7th Georgia Infantry on May 31, 1861 in Sumter county. He was made a Corporal at this time and was promoted to 5th Sergeant on September 2, 1861. He was then promoted to 3rd Sergeant in March of 1862 and to Junior 2nd Lieutenant May 12, 1862. In August,

Brooks was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant.

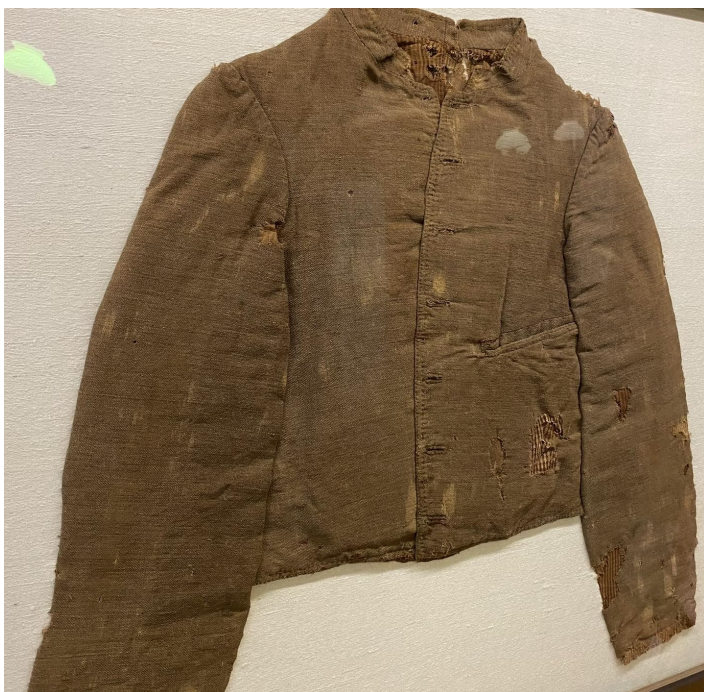
He was slightly wounded at Sharpsburg, September 17, 1862. Twice more he received wounds from battles at Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia (May 1864) and near Petersburg, Virginia, December 10,

wintery weather, an acquaintance told them if they sifted pepper into their boots, it would keep their feet warm. In doing so, the pepper on bare feet inside their boots cause them such pain and infections that they were held up in Arkansas for several weeks that their feet could heal.

Known as 'Uncle Pink', Lewis Pinkney Brooks was the first sheriff of Graham, Texas to serve his full three year term. His first experience with law enforcement came as an election judge in the hotly contested Belknap-Graham county seat election.

After getting somewhat settled, Brooks returned to Georgia to get his bride, Miss Mary Lucinda Moore. He built a stone house on the left bank of the Brazos River and they raised seven children there. The stone home still stands and is a Texas historical landmark. Brooks purchased the 772 acres for \$1500.00 in gold coin in 1869.

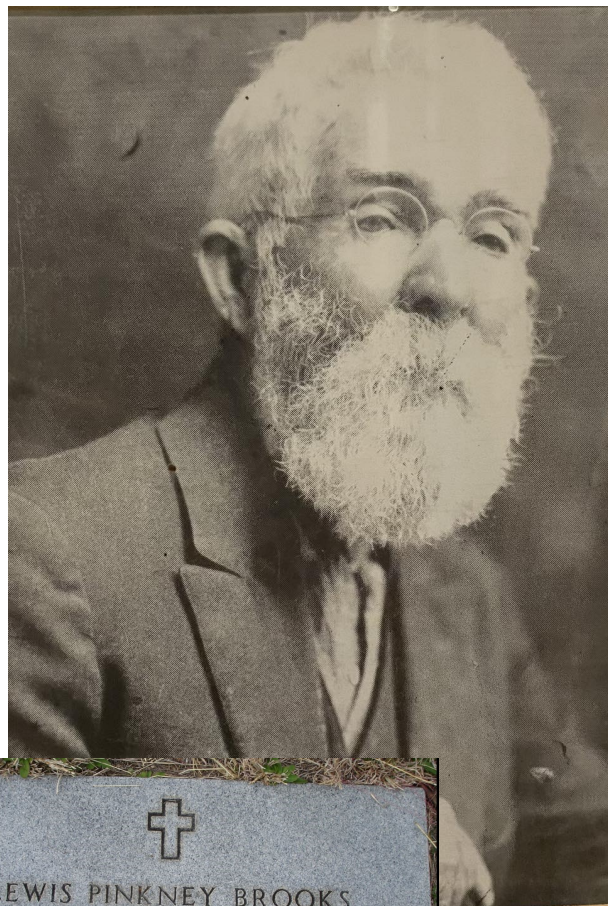
Brooks had a reputation for being a yarnspinner. One of the most familiar stories Graham residents circulated was the latest angle on the quarrel between Brooks and neighbors Elias DeLong and Archie Median as to "who dug the Brazos."



2nd Lt. Lewis Pinkney Brooks' shell jacket is on display at Ft. Belknap's Commissary Museum building, courtesy of the family.

1864. He was discharged in February of 1865. He served under Colonel Hood's division of the Army of Virginia.

After the war, he joined with his cousin, Alexander Timmons and came to Texas arriving in Young county in 1866. Along the way, they traded their mules in for horses which turned out to be broncs. With the





MAJOR BENJAMIN F. FICKLIN
 CHAPTER #310, TEXAS SOCIETY
 COMMANDER DAVID P. MCMAHON
 LT. CMDR. STEVE MELTON
 ADJUTANT JAMES G. PUTMAN
 EDITOR STEVE MELTON

“MAJOR’S ORDERS” is a publication of the Major Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter #310, Military Order of the Stars and Bars, PO Box 3311, San Angelo, TX 76902-3311. All content is produced by the Editor and authorized by the Chapter Commander. All material is copyright by Chapter 310-MOSB ©2024. If you have a news article or photos (high quality jpg) for consideration, email them to the Editor. Photos must not be embedded in articles. Send all as attachments to the Editor at: maj.ben.ficklin310@gmail.com.

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

MOS&B National website: www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org

Texas Society website: www.txmosb.org

Military Order of the Stars and Bars Bledge

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.



Chaplain’s Dispatch (con’t)

(Continued from page 1)

been steadily decreasing to forty-seven percent in 2020.

From time to time the issue of growth and decline arises in all our houses of worship whether they are a church, synagogue, or a mosque. Speaking from the position of a Christian priest, growth or decline is vital to the health and life of a church. In a former parish where I served I presided at fourteen burial services in eight years. Twelve were highly active members. The baptism and confirmations were half that during the same time. This frequently caused lament and worry among folks and inspired some to see the church as only a place to seek solace. While at times that is necessary, it is not the sole reason for the church. The church does not exist to support itself. Its mission is to bring people back to God and serve God’s people in the world.

While a greater systemic solution to declining reli-

gion is necessary, I’d like to use the metaphor of the frontier army post or “fort” for inspiration. How many westerns have we seen where the cavalry is holed up inside a fort? It’s an image that is backwards. The fort isn’t supposed to protect the cavalry. The cavalry is supposed to be out scouting, protecting, and exploring new territory. It should only come back to the fort to re-supply, rest, and refit.

In the case of a Christian church, and other religions, if its members are metaphorically holed up inside the church from the world, then they are not living into the call to worship God and serve God’s people. We come to church, first to worship God and second to rest and re-supply. Then, we must leave that comfortable place and go out among our co-workers, friends, families, and the world. No matter the size of the congregation, if its people are out in the world and bringing people to know Jesus Christ through thought, word, or deed then they will be attracted to God’s grace and love and the question of growth will take care of itself.

Blessings and God’s Speed,
 The Rev. Christopher Roque, Camp Chaplain

