



“Major’s Orders”

Major Benjamin F. Ficklin
Chapter 310

Military Order of the
Stars and Bars



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JUNE 2024

Special Dates of Interest:

June 15, 2024 - Maj. Ben Ficklin Chapter 310 meeting at Ft. Concho LHSC, 10: am.

June 16, 2024 - Father’s Day.

June 21-22, 2024 - Texas Society Convention in College Station.

July 4, 2024 - Independence Day.

July 20-21, 2024 - Gun Show in San Angelo.

Commander McMahon Reports on 2024 National MOS&B Convention

Another MOS&B National Convention has come and gone with the San Angelo Chapter 310 taking its share of the awards. I would personally like to take this time and thank everyone for all their hard work that has been put in this last year.

First, I would like to thank everyone for all their thoughts and prayers that I have received as I have recovered from this year’s version of the Covid-19 virus. Never let it be said that my wife and I do not share everything that comes our

way, but I got to spend 10 days in the hospital.

We both recovered enough to get permission to attend the MOS&B National Convention in Missouri. Joining us at the Springfield, MO, convention were our chapter Adjutant James G. Putman and his wife Jeri. The staff there put on one of the best affairs that I have ever attended and what follows is how we fared.

The National Society Daughter’s of

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Members of the Major Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter 310 supported the Daughters of the American Revolution’s Memorial Day ceremony at Ft. Concho on May 27, 2024. Current and former County Judges, the city’s Mayor, and other dignitaries were on hand. Members participated with a firing line and cannon salute.

Chapter members Rod Smith, Charles Westbrook, David Johnson and Steve Melton were on hand for this event.

Compatriot Howard Wilson, a member of the SCV & Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War rounded out the formation.

(below) Rod Smith, Steve Melton, Howard Wilson (SCV), & Charles Westbrook. Chapter member David Johnson manned the Ft. Concho cannon.



Memorial Day in Abilene

Chapter member Darrell Rhea of Abilene participated in the Memorial Day ceremony at the Elmswood Cemetery in Abilene. Program director J. D. York introduce Darrell and compatriot Brad Bennett at this event. Darrell and Brad have branched out from WBTS reenactment to World War II representations. They both participated at the Breckinridge Air Show on May 26th.



Jeanette York, wife of Director J.D. York and Chapter member Darrell Rhea. Jeanette happens to be the cousin of Darrell’s wife, Sharon.



(Above) Brad Bennett and Chapter member Darrell Rhea at Elmswood Cemetery.

(Below) Unidentified member of the 3rd Inf. Div., 7th Regiment, Chapter member Darrell Rhea and Brad Bennett.



3rd Infantry Division, 7th Regiment & USAAF WW II camp representation at the Breckinridge Air Show.

Emma Sansom: A Very Brave 15-Year-Old

By Norman Dasinger, Jr

In 1863, Emma Sansom and her family lived near Gadsden, Alabama. On the morning of May 2, almost 2,000 Union soldiers under the command of Col. Abel Streight arrived at the Sansom farm with the intent of crossing nearby Black Creek and moving into Gadsden. They had been on a mounted infantry raid all the way across Alabama since April 28. Their goal was to reach Rome, Georgia, and destroy military installations and parts of the railroad in or near that town.

Emma was small, slender, round faced, with auburn hair and dark blue eyes. Her family had moved to Gadsden in 1852 from Georgia. Her father was dead, but living in the house with Emma that day were her mother Levina, her sister Jennie, a neighbor girl Mary, and an enslaved girl, Fannie. Her brothers were serving in the Confederate Army.



Emma Sanson guides General Forrest, detail of bronze map on the lawn of Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Nathan Bedford Forrest shortly arrived. Forrest asked if there was an alternate crossing of Black Creek, since Streight had posted a guard and had partially burned the only bridge. Emma revealed the existence of a little-known cattle ford on their property. By utilizing this ford, Forrest could flank the Yankees at the bridge and threaten the bulk of their command then in Gadsden. Emma told General Forrest she would personally escort him to the site. Emma’s mother was outraged and refused to give her permission. The general assured Levina that he would take care of her daughter and no harm would become her.

But all the time, young Emma had moved out of the house and into the yard to prepare to assist Forrest. She was going no matter what her mother said!

Emma fulfilled her mission, and the Confederates chased the Federal rear guard into Gadsden, and Streight and his command had to retreat quickly. Eventually, Forrest and 300 of his cavalry would capture all of Streight’s nearly 2,000 men near Cedar Bluff, Alabama, the next day.

Emma would marry Christopher Johnson in 1864. She and her husband and their children moved to Texas in 1876. Emma died in 1900 and is buried in Upshur County, Texas.



Emma Sansom | Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Once the Yankees arrived, they began to search the house for food and guns. They demanded the girls give them some water and then posted a guard at the house. Soon, all the troopers made their way to a nearby bridge over Black Creek. This bridge was located approximately 200 yards from the Sansom home.

Pursuing Confederate cavalry commanded by Gen.

Memorial Day—1942

On May 30, 1942, one thousand Houston men were sworn in as servicemen during a Memorial Day rally to replace the crew of the USS Houston, which had

sunk during the Battle of Sunda Strait just a few months earlier. Bayou City residents also helped raise \$85 million in war bonds, enough to both replace the Houston and construct a new aircraft carrier, the San Jacinto. This is what the Houston Press wrote the next day: "Women wept openly and men dabbed their eyes with handkerchiefs, while those who managed to hold back the tears tried in vain to ignore the lumps in their throats.

The Volunteers faced right and began the march toward the station.

A tremendous swelling wave of applause swept



Main Street.

Men waved to their parents, friends and cousins -- or if they failed to see familiar faces, just waved, anyhow.

Hundreds fell in behind the parade and marched with it to the railroad terminal, where 5,000 who had failed to attend the ceremonies were waiting to bid good-bye to their boys.

A deafening din of applause shook the station yards.

Relatives ran alongside the train, touching the hands

of their men and stopping, finally, to weep or console others."



Lt. Commander's Lowdown

Commander McMahon and Adjutant Putman attended the National Convention at Springfield, Missouri and in a few weeks we are headed to the Texas Society Convention at College Station. Before we go there, we will have a Chapter meeting at the Ft. Concho LHSC Saturday, June 15th at 10:00 am. Coffee will be on at 9:30 am. We will have "Zoom" going for those in out lying areas that wish to participate. I have been educating myself on Zoom in hopes of making this experience better for all that want to attend the meeting this way.

The weather has been a topic of several conversations recently. I would ask that you keep our fellow Compatriots and Texans in prayer. The Texas Society has a Chapter in the Temple area where tornadoes

hit.

I received word that Frank Bussey has passed away. Frank was involved with the SCV and was well known to many of you. Our condolences to the family.

See y'all at the meeting.



Lt. Turney Leonard

Lieutenant Turney Leonard received his Bachelor’s Degree in Agriculture from Texas A&M, graduating at the top of his Class. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor — one of seven Medal of Honor recipients from Texas A&M—for his exceptional bravery and valiant leadership in the battle of Hürtgen Forest near Kommer-scheidt, Germany. During the battle on Nov. 4, 1944, Lieutenant Leonard’s 100-



Lieutenant Turney Leonard, Medal of Honor recipient and Texas Aggie.

man tank destroyer company, the 893rd Tank Destroyer Battalion and over 1,000 infantrymen were trapped between two German divisions when he took command. Finding

that most of their officers had been killed, Lieutenant Leonard gathered the men together and walking in front of his tank destroyers, directed fire at the enemy positions. During the battle, his arm was shattered, but he continued directing the assault. Several German snipers were killed and six enemy tanks were destroyed.

Ordered to the aid station where he received treatment, Lieutenant Leonard returned to the battle because he felt the men needed him. His remains were later found and sent to Dallas, Texas for a full military burial. His company commander, Aggie Capt. Marion C. Pugh ’42 stated that Lieutenant Leonard was “the bravest man he ever saw.”

In November 2000, Lieutenant Leonard’s Aggie Ring was returned to his family at a ceremony on the campus of Texas A&M by German Army Capt. Obit Volker Lossner, whose father-in-law found the Ring more than 60 years ago. It is now on permanent display, along with Leonard’s Medal of Honor in the Sam Houston Sanders Corps of Cadets Center.



Commander McMahon

Reports on 2024 National MOS&B Convention

(con’t)

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CSA Officer Corps organization awarded me a **Presidential Award of Excellence** for my quiet guidance to their program. This honor really took me by surprise, and it is deeply appreciated.

R. Stevens “Steve” Melton was awarded the **Lieutenant Charles W. Read Merit Award medal and certificate** for outstanding service to the chapter and the state society. My personal comment: Steve Melton has taken on multiple levels of service and has exceeded the expectations and responsibilities of these positions. We are very pleased to see Steve’s talents and work ethic applauded.

Chapter 310 received several group awards to include:

100% retention ribbon.

Chapter Newsletter award and ribbon – (again, thanks to Steve Melton!)

National Convention 2024 Attendance ribbon.

The membership elected new General Officers for the



NSDCSAOC President, Norma Holley (right), presents the ‘Presidential Award of Excellence’ to Maj. Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter 310 Commander David McMahon with his wife, Golda McMahon (left).

2024–2026 term. We have an exciting group of new leaders who should offer great opportunities for the growth of our great organization. Elected were Com-

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MAJOR BENJAMIN F. FICKLIN
CHAPTER #310, TEXAS SOCIETY
COMMANDER DAVID P. MCMAHON
ADJUTANT JAMES G. PUTMAN
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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 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.



Commander McMahon— Reports on 2024 National MOS&B Convention (con't)

(Continued from page 5)

mander General Thomas B. Rhodes III, DCS, of Alabama; and Lt. Commander General Terry Phillips, DCS, of Missouri. Also elected are ATM Commander General David P. McMahon, DCS, of Texas; ATM Councilor General Larry Joe Reynolds, DCS, of Texas, and ATM Councilor General Taylor Conner of Missouri. Appointees include Chief of Staff General Herbert Turner of Missouri and Adjutant General William Michael Moore, DCS, of Mississippi. I believe we have an excellent leadership team and every member is available to assist our members.

We hope to see more of you at the 2025 National Convention in Foley, Alabama next May.

Deo Vindice,

David P. McMahon, DCS



Chapter 310 Adjutant, James Putman and wife, Jeri.

