



JULY 2024

# “Major’s Orders”

## Major Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter 310

### Military Order of the Stars and Bars



VOLUME 2 ISSUE 7

#### Special Dates of Interest:

**July 3, 2024**—Star Spangle Banner & Fireworks.

**July 4, 2024**—Independence Day.

**July 13, 2024**—Maj. Ben F. Ficklin meeting at Ft. Concho LHSC, 10:00 am.

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

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## 2024 Texas Society Best Newsletter

### Lt. Commander’s Lowdown

Greetings Compatriots! Yes indeed, you are reading the "Best Newsletter in the Texas Society." I had the honor to receive the award at the Texas Society Convention, June 21-22, 2024. The Maj. Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter 310 was also presented with the 'Gold Star Chapter' award and '100% Retention' streamer. Best Society Website award went to Col. Richard B. Hubbard Chapter 261, Webmaster Larry Joe Reynolds and the 'Distinguished Chapter' award went to the Lawrence Sullivan Ross Chapter 184. Texas Society Commander George Williamson presented his staff with a 'Certificate of Recognition' for their support this past



Editor Steve Melton (L) accepting the Texas Society Best Newsletter Award, Commander George Williamson (R)

year, which included Texas Society Lt. Commander David P. McMahon, Chapter 310 Commander, and Adjutant Robert S. Melton, Chapter 310 Lt. Commander. Individual awards to our Chapter members went to Commander David McMahon, Bronze Star for Meritorious Service and Lt. Commander Steve Melton, Silver Star for Meritorious Service. The recipients of the Texas Society 'Lone Star' award are Frank L. Kebelman III of Chapter 184, Lee Roy Lance of Chapter 312, and Yancey G.

(Continued on page 6)

## Quarterly Chapter Meeting July 13th

Our next quarterly meeting will be Saturday, July 13th at Ft. Concho Living History Stables Classroom. The meeting will begin at 10:00 am, coffee will be on at 9:30 am.

Come early and visit with your Compatriots.

Zoom will be available for our long distant Compatriots. Hope to see you there.



# Star Spangled Banner Concert & Fireworks

Patriotic and joyous celebrations: Immerse yourself in the festive spirit as we come together to celebrate community, independence and the beauty of summer nights. Patriotic Costume Contest: \$100 cash prize for 1st place winner! Live local entertainment featuring: Rita Capuchina & Kevin Collins, and AFTER PARTY with Take Two.

Gates open at noon. Things start up at 6:00 pm. **Event is free**, however there is a VIP section: VIP tables: \$500 | Seats 8 with 2 drinks tickets per guest.

Bill Aylor Sr. Memorial River

stage, 16 E Avenue A, San Angelo.



## 2024 Texas Society Convention



(Left) 100% Retention Chapters: Cmdr. Michael Gonzales-Ch. 318, Cmdr. David McMahon-Ch.310, Past ATM Counselor Devin Lindsey-Ch. 273, Past Cmdr. General Johnnie Holley-Ch. 261, Cmdr. Raymond Reeves-Ch. 184, Cmdr. George Williamson-Ch.5 & Past TxSoc Cmdr. Larry Joe Reynolds.

(Below) Certificates of Recognition from Cmdr. George Williamson (r) to Phillip Whitley, Raymond Holder, Dale Tidwell, Michael Smith, Steve Melton, David McMahon, Charles Hand, Michael Gray, Michael Gonzales, and Larry Joe Reynolds (l-r).



# The Moon Sisters of Ohio: Confederate Couriers and Smugglers

by DeAnne Blanton-Society for Women and the Civil War ([www.swcw.org](http://www.swcw.org))

Cynthia Charlotte Moon, known as Lottie, was born in Danville, Virginia, on August 10, 1828. Her father was a physician and her mother was a homemaker. The Moon family moved to Oxford, Ohio, where Virginia Bethel Moon, known as Ginnie, was born on July 22, 1844. The family also had two sons.

As a young woman, Lottie was courted by, and engaged to, a young army officer, Ambrose Burnside. She left him at the altar. Instead, she married James Clark, an attorney and local judge.

At the beginning of the Civil War, Lottie was 31 and Ginnie was 16. Ginnie was enrolled in the Oxford Female Institute, but was expelled for her Confederate sympathies. The story goes that she took a pistol and shot out the stars of the United States flag that was flying at the school.

Lottie and James Clark were also Confederate sympathizers, with James joining the Knights of the Golden Circle. Confederate operatives were frequent guests of the couple, and Lottie became a courier of messages between Ohio and Kentucky. Perhaps inspired by her sister, Ginnie moved to Memphis to be with her widowed mother and began her own courier work. Under the pretext of visiting her sister, she relayed messages between Memphis, now under Union occupation, and the Knights of the Golden Circle in Ohio. The *Dallas (Texas) Morning News*, on September 16, 1925, wrote this about Ginnie: "An agnostic who had no fear of death, smoked innumerable cigarettes and boasted of the fourteen bona fide proposals she had spurned when a Southern belle and Confederate spy."

A story written by Dr. Philip Shriver gives an account of Lottie

visiting Washington, D.C., in October of 1862. There she pretended to be British and requested a passport into Union-occupied Virginia. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton met with her and offered her a place in a wagon taking President Lincoln into Northern Virginia. Dr. Shriver wrote: "The next day, there was Oxford's Lottie Moon seated next to the President of the United States, riding in the latter's personal carriage."

Both sisters also smuggled medical supplies to the Confederate army. They were intercepted by Union authorities in 1863, who discovered the medical supplies sewn in a quilt in their baggage. Requesting to see her "old friend," Ginnie was granted an interview with Gen. Ambrose Burnside, her sister's scorned fiancé, who was serving as the commander of the Union Department of Ohio. After their meeting, Burnside ordered that both sisters be placed under house arrest. Charges were never pressed against the sisters, and after three months, they were sent South into Confederate territory.

After the war, Lottie and her husband moved to New York City. They had one son, Franklin, and Lottie began a new career as a journalist, eventually covering the Franco-Prussian War from various European capitals. She died in Philadelphia on November 20, 1895, at the age of 67.

Ginnie returned to Memphis at the end of the war and ran a boarding house. She moved to Hollywood during the early days of silent films, at the age of 70, and found parts in several movies, including *Robin Hood*. She died on September 11, 1925, in New York City, at the age of



Cynthia Charlotte Moon



Virginia Bethel Moon

81.



# 2024 Texas Society Convention



(Left) Distinguished Chapter Award-Cmdr. Raymond Reeves, TxSoc. Cmdr. George Williamson and Past TxSoc. Cmdr. Larry Joe Reynolds (l-r).

(Below) Keep Her Flying Certificate was awarded to Cmdr. Michael Gonzale(c) with TxSoc. Cmdr. George Williamson (l) and Past TxSoc. Cmdr. Larry Joe Reynolds (r).



Attendees of the 2024 Texas Society Convention



## 2024 Texas Society Convention



Recipients of the Texas Bronze Star for Meritorious Service: Michael Gonzales, Charles Hand, Phillip Whitley, Bill Boyd, Michael Smith, Johnnie Holley, Devin Lindsey, David McMahon, George Williamson, & Lee Roy Lance with Awards Chairman Larry Joe Reynolds (l-r). Not present—Robert Keever, William Elliot, Dennis Brand.



Gold Star Chapter Awards:  
Chapter 318—Cmdr. Michael Gonzales, Chapter 310—Cmdr. David McMahon, Chapter 184—Cmdr. Raymond Reeves, Chapter 5—Cmdr. George Williamson & Awards Chair, Larry Joe Reynolds.





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CHAPTER #310, TEXAS SOCIETY  
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Maj. Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter 310 website: [www.txmosb.org/310/index.html](http://www.txmosb.org/310/index.html)

MOS&B National website: [www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org](http://www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org)

Texas Society 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.*



## Lt. Commander’s Lowdown (con’t)

*(Continued from page 1)*

Swearingin of Chapter 184. Chapter 318 Commander Michael Gonzales received the "Keep Her Flying" certificate for faithfully flying a Confederate flag this past year at his home. This was a very good Convention and I would like to express a special "Thank you" and our gratitude to Norma Holley and the Ladies assisting her with the setup of our room. A "Thank you" and "Great job" to our Awards Chairman, Larry Joe Reynolds.

Set your reminder, our quarterly Chapter meeting will be Saturday, July 13, 2024 at 10:00 am. Coffee will be on by 9:30, so come early and visit and enjoy yourself. I hear we will have a very exciting program this month. We will have Zoom going for our distant members, I will do my best to make sure it is working right...I have a plan!!

A "new" addition to our Chapter website will be a calendar. This calendar will be one that covers several organizations and events in the San Angelo area and beyond. Google Calendars will be the platform used, if you are familiar with Google Calendars, you

will know that 'clicking' on an event will produce a 'pop up' window that can contain additional information on the event. This pop up window can be printed as well as the calendar itself. If you know of an upcoming event, send me the information.

A quick update on the Fairmount Cemetery Board of Directors' meeting in June. They have noted that they will place their anti-Confederate flag policy on their July agenda. Compatriot Charles Westbrook has challenged the board concerning 'letters to the Board of Directors', as proper procedures dictate that letters to a board of directors are read to the board and addressed at the meetings. Since the fall of last year, we have been attending the board meetings, none of the known 20 or so letters to the board of directors have ever been address at any meeting. A "Major's Message" shall be forth coming concerning this issue...stand by.

