

Winner of the 2020 & 2021 Col. Walter H. Taylor Award - Best Society Newsletter in the MOS&B

COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Larry "Joe" Reynolds



Compatriots,

As 2021 is drawing to an end, we just celebrated Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving is here and Christmas is just around the corner, we truly do have much to be thankful for. Although we are now living in times that most have never experienced, we still live in the best country on earth.


One of my goals as Commander of the Texas Society is to see the Society grow during my term of office. In Missouri we heard that every man should recruit just one man in order to double the society. We hear that we must recruit younger men into the Society. Well, all of those things work, but let me tell you what I think the secret of success is in recruiting! Invite one person to attend a Chapter meeting with you, and make sure you arrange to pick him up and bring him to the meeting. Don't ask someone to commit until they know what they're getting into.

A day or two after the meeting, then ask them what they thought. Talk about the good and the bad, and then ask them to join. We all have friends in the SCV, SAR, SRT, DMWV, Masons, etc. A person who is a member of a historical or other organization is highly likely to join another, if he finds it and its members up to standards.

Besides recruiting new members, we should also look at keeping our present members and trying to reconnect with past members. These are men who have already qualified as members and already proven to want to be a member. If your

Chapter isn't meeting or has fallen inactive, try to get it going again. See about setting up a new meeting, call members to check on them and see if they need assistance, call past member and invite them to a new meeting. Call me and I will do everything in my power to help you. Let's get it done!


*Respectfully,
Joe Reynolds
Society Commander*



TEXAS SOCIETY

MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS

Lone Star Dispatch



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CONFEDERATE
OFFICERS OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY
MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS

Lone Star Dispatch is published quarterly with publication deadlines of:

Winter Edition -----	February
Spring Edition-----	May
Summer Edition -----	August
Fall Edition -----	November

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEC Meeting
 March 26th, 2022
 Hilton Inn and Convention Center
 College Station, Texas

GEC Meeting

April 22-23, 2022
Hampton Inn & Suites
1222 Kelli Drive, Athens. AL 35613

Texas Society MOS&B Reunion

May 20-21, 2022
Hilton College Station & Conference Center
801 University Drive East, College Station, TX

85th National General Convention

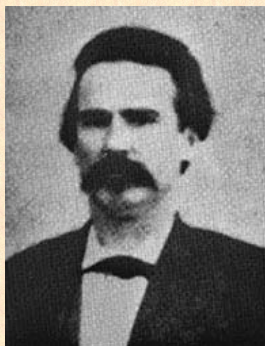
July 7-10, 2022
Lodge at Pickwick Landing State Park
120 Playground Loop, Counce, TN 38326
(713) 689-3129

River campaign of 1864 and the battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill and the resulting pursuit of Union Gen. N P Banks. Upon the recommendation of Kirby Smith, he was promoted to brigadier general to rank from March 17, 1865.

After the end of the war and until 1874, Hardeman was planter. He subsequently served as assistant Sgt.-at-arms of the Texas house of representatives, a railroad inspector, and during the last years of his life he was superintendent of public building and grounds which was a position that included supervision of the Texas Confederate Soldier's Home.

Hardeman died in Austin, Texas, April 8, 1898. He is buried in the State Cemetery in Austin.

TEXAS HEROES

WILLIAM POLK HARDEMAN**1816 – 1898**

"Gotch" Hardeman was born in Williamson County, Tennessee, Nov 4, 1816, and moved to Texas in 1835. He took part in the War for Texas Independence and later in the Mexican War serving under Ben McCulloch.

His first Confederate service was as a captain of the 4th Texas Cavalry in Gen Sibley's expedition into New Mexico Territory resulting in being commended by his superior for his performance at Valverde. He was promoted to Lt. Colonel and in 1862 to colonel. He led his command during the Red

GENERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING – DALTON, GA

The Military Order of the Stars and Bars held a GEC Meeting on October 30th at Dalton, GA. Texas Society was well represented with ATM Commander, Dennis Brand, ATM Councilman and Quartermaster General Devin Lindsey, Webmaster General and Texas Society Commander Joe Reynolds, Leadership Seminar Chairman and Past Texas Society Commander Johnnie L. Holley, Jr. and Communications Lt. General David McMahon. Although some good information was discussed, not everything got worked out or completed. The next meeting will be April 23rd, 2022 in Athens, Alabama



Lieutenant Commander's Comments

by George Ward Williamson



I was excited to attend my first meeting as Lt. Commander at The Society's Executive Council Meeting in College Station. I reported to the Council my plans to boost membership. I informed them that I would be attending every Chapter meeting in the Texas Society. I will be encouraging members to reach out to their brothers in the SCV, SRT and SAR to become members of the MOS&B.

When people show an interest in becoming a member but they say they don't have a Confederate officer, I'm in the process of putting together a program where they can possibly find an ancestor that was an officer.

Another way we will build membership is by adding chapters. We are in the process of adding a chapter in Temple and hopefully Austin and Hondo.

The reward for me in being the Lt. Commander is by meeting so many nice people, making friends with like interests of Southern pride and keeping the memory of our ancestors.

I would like to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.
In Southern Pride,

George W. Williamson, Lt. Commander



MISSOURI SESSION DINNER

Texas delegation joins Arkansas, Mississippi, and Missouri members at the annual 2021 Missouri Secession Dinner in Osage Beach, MO.

Missouri welcomed all of us with open arms and a great "country" dinner. The hotel, setting on the edge of the lake was peaceful and beautiful. Our own Scott Bowden was the guest speaker for the evening so with him and his partner, Virginia, we had a total of 9 representatives from Texas.



Left to right: Larry Yeatman - MO Society Adjutant, John Trent - MO Society Lt. Cmdr., Terry Phillips - MO Society Cmdr., Koltin Massie - AR Society Cmdr., J. Troy Massey - PCG (AR), Larry Joe Reynolds - TX Society Cmdr., David McMahon - TX Society Adjutant / Communications Lt General, Dennis Brand - ATM Cmdr. (TX), Kevin Hawkins - Genealogist General (MO), Chris Heuer - AOT Executive Councilor (MS), and Johnnie Holley - Past TX Society Cmdr.



TEXAS SOCIETY DUES, ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORTS

Deadline is Dec. 15, 2021

by David P. McMahon, Texas Society Adjutant

Attention Chapter Commanders and Adjutants! MOS&B National and State Society Dues are payable by Dec. 15, 2021, due to holiday mail crunch. Last month every chapter received an official roster from MOS&B IHQ. Please use this roster to make all corrections or updates. National has informed us any chapter returning a roster other than the one they sent will be disregarded. Mark your roster corrections and make two extra copies. The original roster goes to national IHQ with your national dues check and your Annual Chapter Report. One copy goes with your Texas Society dues payment check, plus a copy of your Chapter's Annual Report. The Chapter Annual Report form is found in the MOS&B website Members Only section http://www.militaryorderofthestarsandbars.org/members/_forms/Report_AnnualChapter-Rev_20160817.pdf

Texas Society dues are \$10 per member. Texas does not have Life Memberships. Please send a copy of your corrected roster, annual report, and Texas Society dues no later than Dec. 15, 2021. Write one check for your chapter's state dues payable to MOS&B Texas Society and mail to David McMahon, PO Box 3311, San Angelo, TX 76902-3311. If you have questions, contact me at dmctx.mosbtx@gmail.com

If your chapter has suffered a death during this year, please send in the Last Roll Call form and copy all information to the Texas Society Adjutant.

Mail your national dues check payable to MOS&B IHQ, corrected original roster, and your annual chapter report to: MOSB IHQ, PO Box 18901, Raleigh NC 27619-8901.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.



REQUEST FOR ARTICLES

**for upcoming Editions of the
Lone Star Dispatch**

Please consider writing or submitting an article that can be included in future issues of the Lone Star Dispatch. Send your articles to the attention of our Editor Joe Reynolds, whose email is Joe.Reynolds@txmosb.org

The preferred submittal is one in which the articles are in MS Word format and that all pictures are in jpeg format as this makes it easier to format to the proper scale within this publication.

Note that references and footnotes are requested to support where the original information is acquired as it is up to the article writer to provide such material.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thanks.

I would like to see each Chapter in the Texas Society submit an article each quarter. I think it would be nice to have an update on what's happening in each of our Chapters.



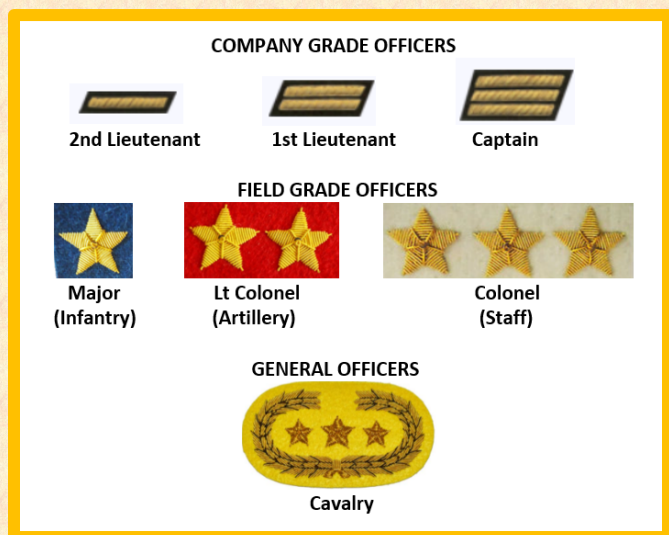
THINK ABOUT IT...

By Lee R Lance, Cmdr, Chap 312

I was recently confronted by the question "if we're the Military Order of the Stars and the Bars", why does our logo display the battle flag instead of the First National, i.e. the Stars and Bars? That was a really good question, and I could see where the person would ask it.

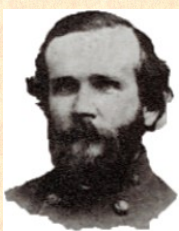
Gentlemen, the answer is fairly simple – since we are the descendants of CSA Officers (or elected officials), the name needed to reflect something

related to that status. How were the officer cadre identified as different from the enlisted cadre? Why, by their rank insignia of course! And so, it came to be that we adopted a name based on the fact that all CSA Officers' collar rank insignia were composed of either stars or bars (see illustration below). Pretty simple when you come to think of it, huh? And, as Paul Harvey used to say, "And now, you know the rest of the story. Good Day."



CHAPTER 312 CELEBRATES 2ND ANNIVERSARY

By Lee R Lance, Commander



August 12th was not only the Second Anniversary of Chapter 312's chartering but also the 193rd birthday of our namesake, Col Briscoe Gerard Baldwin. To commemorate both events, several members of the

Chapter met at his gravesite in Bryan City Cemetery. Those in attendance included Commander Lee Lance, Lt Commander Mike Smith and members Dan Wood, David Forrest, Bill Boyd and Dan Hilliard.

The group had met on the first anniversary of Chartering and refurbished Col Baldwin's tombstone

which has weathered the past year in dramatic fashion. A First National Flag was placed at his grave which is also marked by a flat granite VA marker and a Southern Cross of Valor.

Col Baldwin was born in 1828 at Stanton, VA and graduated from VMI as part of the Class of 1848. People described him as "a nice fellow and a thorough gentleman"; Gen J.E.B. Stuart said of him that "he ought to be a general." Checking his records, we saw that he was indeed a man on a "fast track" to that rank. He was appointed 2LT at the Richmond Ordnance Depot in March 1861; 1LT of Alabama 1st Artillery in July 1861; Commander of the Richmond Arsenal in September 1861; Promoted to Captain in January 1861 and assigned as AAAG to BG R.E. Rhodes in April 1862; he was promoted to Major in June 1862 and then as Acting LtCol of the 6th Alabama Regiment; badly WIA in lungs at Malvern Hill in July 1862; returned to duty and reported to GEN Robert E Lee's staff for duty as Chief of Ordnance in November 1862; Lee promoted him to full Colonel by war's end. In 1870, he moved to Bryan, TX at the behest of his friend, LT James Jarvis Adams, to take over a newly formed stagecoach line running from Bryan toward Austin. But by the time he arrived, the line had already gone defunct, and Briscoe took up farming. He eventually was approached to be Superintendent of Schools for the Bryan School District and remained in that position until his death 28SEP1898. He is buried in the Adams Family Plot in Bryan City Cemetery.



(L-R) Cmdr Lee Lance, David Forrest, Dan Hilliard,
Bill Boyd, Dan Wood, Lt Cmdr Mike Smith

The Chapter paid homage to Col Baldwin as Commander Lance read from the 14th Chapter of Job that *“Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down; he fleeth also as a shadow and continueth not. As the waters disappear from the sea and the flood decayeth and drieth up; so man lieth down, and riseth not; till the heavens be no more, they shall not wake, nor be raised out of their sleep. For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth and though this body be destroyed yet shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold and not another.”* Compatriot Colonel Baldwin was an outstanding soldier and faithful member of Lee’s Staff. He fought the good fight. The bugle has sounded taps and he is at rest. He will sleep until the reveille of Heaven calls him to take his place in the ranks of the immortal legions of the Great Commander. We prayed that our years would be useful and honorable as were his, and that at last when we have also crossed over the river to rest under the shade of the trees with Lee and Jackson and Davis, that we might find our names inscribed upon the rolls of the celestial Hosts. We retired to a local restaurant for dinner and drinks. In all, it was a very memorable day, and we plan to make this an annual event in his memory.

TEXAS SOCIETY LAPEL PINS



Texas Society Lapel Pins have been approved by IHQ and are now available to purchase at \$10.00 each. Please contact [Joe Reynolds](#) for information.

TEXAS SOCIETY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING - 11-13-2021

The Texas Society held it first SEC meeting of this administration on November 13th at College Station, Texas. We had an informative and productive meeting and great fellowship was shared by all.

A few of the items discussed was the formation of a new “Headquarters” Chapter for Texas at large members, a new Texas Society Awards System, and a Texas Society Challenge Coin for our 2022 Annual Reunion.

Lee Lance will be sending out the designs to vote on for the Lone Star Medal, and I will be sending out the designs to vote on for the Challenge Coins.



Left to Right – Front, Rod Smith, Mike Smith, Joe Reynolds, George Williamson, David McMahon, Gene Wueste, Back Row – Mike Gonzales, Bill Elliott, Dennis Brand, Lee Lance, James Putman & Johnnie Holley

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Brigadier General Joseph Finegan
From October 2011 Officer’s Call

"Finegan, me bye, ye know ye are yur mither's darlin'." Thus is recorded just one example of the colorful dialect of this native Irishman, born November 17, 1814 at Clones, Ireland. Like thousands of other sons of Eire, he immigrated to the United States in the 1830s, settling in Florida near Jacksonville, where he quickly became a prominent member of the community, operating first a small plantation and later a sawmill. A few years later he removed to Fernandina and began a long and useful association with the influential politician David Yulee, later senator from Florida.

Together they commenced construction of a railroad, and Finegan's own importance rose in tandem with Yulee's. Thus when the state secession crisis loomed, Finegan served as a member of the 1861 state convention that on January 10 voted to withdraw from the Union. For reasons that are unclear, given Finegan's complete lack of military training or experience, Governor John Milton put him in charge of the state's efforts to get onto a war footing. This, plus the political necessities of appointing a sufficient number of brigadiers from Florida, induced President Davis to tender Finegan a commission on April 5, 1862, to take rank immediately. The Senate confirmed the appointment the same day, and Finegan himself accepted it on April 17, thereby becoming one of the senior officers to be appointed from his state.

On April 8, 1862, Finegan took command of the Department of Middle and Eastern Florida, which he held for the next two years. It was a backwater command, largely of importance only for protecting the long coastline, and raising troops, often for service elsewhere. Soon after Finegan took command, R. E. Lee complimented him on his zeal and productivity at organizing Floridians into companies. Lee was also encouraged by Finegan's very realistic and all too unusual attitude that only as many state troops as necessary should be kept in Florida, while the majority should go to the main army in Virginia. Finegan's suggestion may have been prompted by a desire that he himself should be

reassigned to the main theater of operations, but Lee believed that he could not be spared from Florida.

Finegan would start to see action in his own front later in 1862, as Federal incursions into Florida brought the war to him. While keeping his headquarters at Tallahassee, he oversaw the defense of Tampa in the summer and in September took and occupied Saint John's Bluff. In March 1863 he captured Jacksonville and held it briefly. His great moment, however, came at the Battle of Olustee, when Federals under Truman Seymour made a landing at Jacksonville and moved inland. Finegan assembled hastily the troops of his department and on February 20, 1864, delivered a telling attack that halted the enemy advance and sent Seymour back in retreat.

It was possibly the success at Olustee, combined with the confidence that Lee had expressed earlier in Finegan that led the Virginia chieftain on May 16 to ask the War Department to have a brigade made up of available Florida troops and sent to him, with the Irishman in command. Gathering forces from all points to resist Grant's advance, Lee needed the man from Florida.

"Marse Robert" was not to be disappointed. Finegan arrived in time to hold a critical point in the line at Cold Harbor on June 3. When the Federals briefly broke through, Finegan's brigade rushed into the gap, and quickly plugged it once more, winning compliments from many quarters. Thereafter he remained with the Army of Northern Virginia, his brigade soon being reassigned to Mahone's Division of the III Corps. Throughout the remainder of 1864 Finegan led the 2d, 5th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th Florida in the trenches around Petersburg.

In January 1865 prominent Floridians petitioned the government to have him returned to their state. Finegan himself, weary after almost four years of continual service without a rest, also asked that he be reassigned, though as always he revealed a spirit of cooperation when he did not request that his brigade be sent with him, knowing that Lee needed it more. On March 20, 1865, he was reassigned to command

in Florida. There in May he rendered his final services to the Confederacy when he assisted Secretary of War John C. Breckinridge and Secretary of State Judah P. Benjamin in successfully escaping through Florida to Cuba and the Bahamas, respectively.

Following the war, General Finegan lived in Jacksonville for a time, and then moved to Rutledge, working for a time as a cotton broker, as well as practicing law. He served a term in the state senate, 1865-66, and finally died on October 29, 1885, at Rutledge, and was buried in the Old City Cemetery at Jacksonville. He had shown himself to be one of that class of men who led by raw native good sense. His potential may never have been truly challenged in the Florida command or in his limited field experience in battle, but wherever he served he won the approval of those above and below him.

Source: Museum of Southern History, Jacksonville, FL



MAJOR BENJAMIN F. FICKLIN

CHAPTER 310 – NEWS



The Major Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter 310, San Angelo, Texas was chartered in December 2018, Major Benjamin F. Ficklin Chapter 310 – San Angelo is the only chapter of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars in West Texas. Like this part of Texas, over half our members travel up to three and a half hours (3.5 hours) one-way to attend meetings and participate in our events. Our members reside from Lubbock to Sheffield, Midland to Gatesville, Abilene to Lake Brownwood, and Christoval to San Angelo, an area of encompassing twenty-plus counties.

Organizing Chapter officers include Commander David P. McMahon, Lt. Commander Lee Hise, and Adjutant James G. Putman. Cmdr. McMahon and Adjutant Putman have attended every Texas

Convention and General Conventions since we chartered. McMahon has travelled to Missouri twice in 2021 for their State Reunion and Secession Dinner, plus attending the 2020 Southern Memorial Association's Annual Service at the Fayetteville AR Confederate Cemetery. We have never missed attending the State Executive Council quarterly meetings and have attended most national GEC meetings.

One of our newest members is 13-year-old Legacy Mack Wallace Johnson. Mack came in on his father, David M. Johnson's membership. Mack is learning to perform Taps on his violin and a recorder for our events. We are excited to see a younger generation interested in preserving our heritage and his family's history.



Mack Wallace Johnson, 13, joins the ranks of Major Benjamin Ficklin Chapter 310 in San Angelo. Johnson, a Legacy member, is inducted by David McMahon, Chapter Commander. David Mack Johnson, Mack's father, is a chapter member.

Major Benjamin Ficklin was a Confederate spy. After the war ended, Ficklin bought land in West Texas and started the Concho Mail Station in an area which became Tom Green County, Texas. Ficklin is credited as a founder of the early Pony Express. The village of Benficklin became the Tom Green County seat when it was founded in 1874. Today, the Historic Benficklin Cemetery is a Texas Historic Cemetery. Among the interments are Ficklin's mail station partner Col. Francis Corbett Taylor and his wife.

Chapter 310 honors Ficklin, Taylor, and early pioneers during an August ceremony commemorating the 1882 Ben Ficklin Flood which destroyed the town taking many lives including numerous Confederate veterans.

Veterans Day is a special ceremony at the San Angelo Fairmount Cemetery. Our members join the SCV, SUV, and Fort Concho Living History artillery to provide firing line volleys and tributes to all veterans buried there. Our members volunteer to place grave flags throughout the cemetery days before the event and return to remove the flags (U.S., First National CSA, and Texas).



Texas Society Lt. Commander George Williamson, far right, attended the October meeting of the Major Benjamin Ficklin Chapter 310 in San Angelo. Welcoming the Lt. Commander are Adjutant James Putman, left, and Commander David McMahon, center.

Our chapter has participated in the annual Genealogy Fair for several years. We work with numerous local historical organizations to promote Southern

heritage. We are about to begin a project to clean and restore historical markers and monuments throughout the county.

THE CHRISTIAN CAVALIER

1870 — Robert Edward Lee — 1920

"Numbered with the saints in glory everlasting."

Thy warfare o'er, thy faithful heart at rest,
Thou farest forth, the champion of the right;
They welcome thee, the saints in splendor bright.

To guide thee to the realm of thy brave quest.

Content thy soul save only with the best;

Thy standard, high, the pure unsullied white;

Thy shining blade, the symbol of the Might
Of thy fair Land. Thy Comrades greet thee, blest!

Thy noble spirit scorned place and power;
Ambition's 'lurements thou didst, meek, resign;
The weak thou servedst, as thou didst the strong.
When cloud and black defeat didst o'er thee lower.

Thou sought'dst the leading of the light divine.
Hail him, Hosts Eternal, with the Victor's Song!

A. W. LITTLEFIELD. MIDDLEBOROUGH, MASS.

Let us pray for ourselves, that we may not lose the word "concern" out of our Christian vocabulary. Let us pray for our nation. Let us pray for those who have never known Jesus Christ and redeeming love, for moral forces everywhere, for our national leaders. Let prayer be our passion. Let prayer be our practice.
Robert E. Lee

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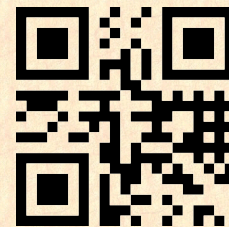
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Opinions expressed by individual writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the Texas Society, Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

Letters and articles may be submitted to:

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(Cutoff for articles is 15th of the month)

