



NOVEMBER 2023

# Major's Orders

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



VOLUME I ISSUE II

## Special Dates of Interest:

**November 11, 2023** -  
Veteran's Day.

**November 23, 2023** -  
Thanksgiving.

**December 2, 2023** -  
Chapter meeting to be  
held at Ft. Concho Parade  
Field near 7th Texas Infan-  
try tent.

**March 14-17, 2024** -  
MOS&B GEC meeting at  
The Pickwick, Counce,  
Tenn.

**March 22-23, 2024** -  
Texas Society SEC meet-  
ing at College Station,  
Texas.

## Inside this issue:

Major Lee's War 2  
Against the Moss-  
backs

Major Joseph Palm- 3  
er's Battery  
(Southern Rights  
Battery)

## Lt. Commander's Lowdown

by Steve Melton

November is here, cooler tem-  
peratures and turkey are in the forecast.  
Commander McMahon and I have just  
returned from the Texas Society SEC  
meeting held October 21<sup>st</sup> and it was an  
exceptional meeting. We have a new  
Web Master General, Jimmy Stephens  
of Chapter #318 and he has been work-  
ing hard to get the Society website back  
on track. He announced the "Members  
Only" section will return soon and the  
'Store' is open and waiting for custom-  
ers.

The 'Legacy Endowment Fund'  
now has two additional contribution  
levels that the contributor will receive a  
certificate, lapel pin, and Confederate  
Legacy Legion of Merit drop to wear.  
The new contribution levels are  
\$500.00 and \$250.00 donations. Also  
new, non-members that contribute at  
the \$1000.00 level will receive a certifi-  
cate, lapel pin, and the Confederate Leg-

acy Legion of Merit drop. Any one that  
contributes an additional \$1000.00  
over the first thousand-dollar contribu-  
tion will receive a Gold Star pin to at-  
tach on their Medal.

The Texas Society Facebook  
page is active now for the Facebook us-  
ers out there. Just do a 'Search' for  
'Texas Society – Military Order of the  
Stars & Bars' and fill out the question-  
naire.

And it is Dues Renewal time. I  
hope everyone has remitted their Dues  
for the coming year. If you have not re-  
ceived your 'Dues Remittance' form,  
please contact Commander McMahon  
at [dmctx.mosbtx@gmail.com](mailto:dmctx.mosbtx@gmail.com).

As many may know, there has  
been an issue arise concerning the an-  
nual Veteran's Day Memorial that at-  
tracts many of us with musket and pow-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Sons of the American Revolution

The Daniel Wood Chapter #22 of the  
Sons of the American Revolution has  
been reactivated in San Angelo, Texas.  
If you are interested in becoming a  
member, Contact the Chapter President,  
David McMahon. If you are not sure if  
you have an American Revolution veter-  
an, there is help available to research  
deeper into your family past.

At this time , the re-chartering ceremo-

ny is scheduled for January and Charter  
Membership will be open for a time.

Daniel Wood was a surgeon in the revo-  
lution and George Washington's per-  
sonal physician. He would lead a com-  
pany into battle and afterwards he  
would become their doctor. He treated  
both American and British wounded.

David McMahon:  
[dmctx.mosbtx@gmail.com](mailto:dmctx.mosbtx@gmail.com).



## Lt. Commander's Lowdown (con't)

(Continued from page 1)

der to honor those who fought for our freedoms. Due to this issue, it is up to the individual if they want to participate, however, many have

stated they will not be at the cemetery. For those interested in making a response to the Fairmount Cemetery Board of Directors, a letter to the Board has been prepared by Compatriot Charles Westbrook

and he is most willing to send you a copy if you have not already received such.



## Major Lee's War against the Mossbacks

by Robert S. Davis

It is a well-known fact that Georgia governor Joseph E. Brown clashed with the Confederate government. In early 1863, however, he asked Maj. George Washington Lee, the Confederate provost marshal of Atlanta, to lead an expedition into the mountains to subdue deserters (from both armies) and draft evaders. The latter were called hogbacks and mossbacks because they hid in caves and the woods, or "Tories" from the Americans who refused to support the original American Revolution.

There is little doubt the fighting and terrible conditions in the army depleted the ranks. Men refused to comply with the Conscription Act



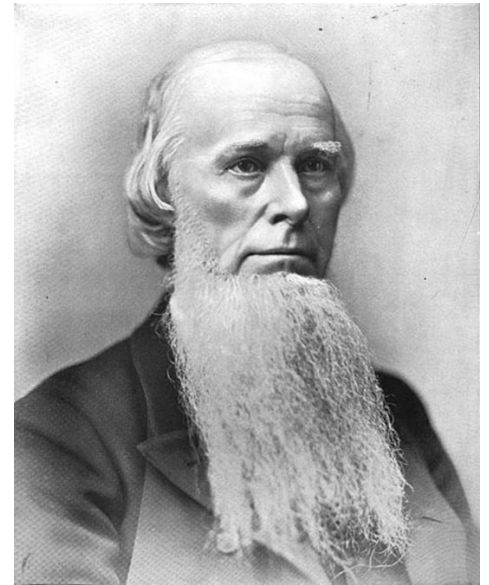
Major George Washington Lee

of 1862. Persons of all backgrounds and associations, including former Confederate soldiers and even federal agents, stirred up dissent and organized sabotage. Sometime in late 1862, Lee learned about a wild plot to burn down Atlanta and railroad bridges going into and out of the city. In addition, local newspapers in north Georgia carried stories of robberies and murders committed by the war resisters.

Governor Brown provided Lee with 150 men and persuaded the Confederate government to add another 150 cavalymen for the campaign. Lee added local defense troops to make a force of 500 soldiers. On January 24, 1863, Lee and the first of his troops arrived in the city of Dahlonega in bitterly cold weather. Citizens of Lumpkin County's seat of government welcomed Lee's men. The mossbacks had recently made a prison break in an adjoining county and burned down most of the jails in the region. When they tried to assault Dahlonega, however, local people successfully defended their town.

The campaign brought 1,000 men to the army, many voluntarily but 150 to 200 men in chains. The latter included 53 civilians opposing the Confederate war effort.

In September 1863, Lee led a second expedition into the Georgia Mountains. While some 15 miles from Morganton, he and a lieutenant did a reconnaissance disguised



Georgia Governor Joseph E. Brown

as civilians. They joined 100 armed Unionists trying to flee, led by two federal officers.

Returning to his own camp, Lee set out in pursuit. In an ensuing violent exchange, Lee's men killed four Unionists and wounded several others; a federal officer and a local preacher were among the 30 to 40 men captured.

Furthermore, Lee also crossed state lines to squelch war resistance. He led 20 men into Cherokee County, North Carolina, where they captured five men, including a notorious mossback leader and two federal recruiting officers. Lee also sent detachments into Ducktown, Tennessee. This

(Continued on page 4)

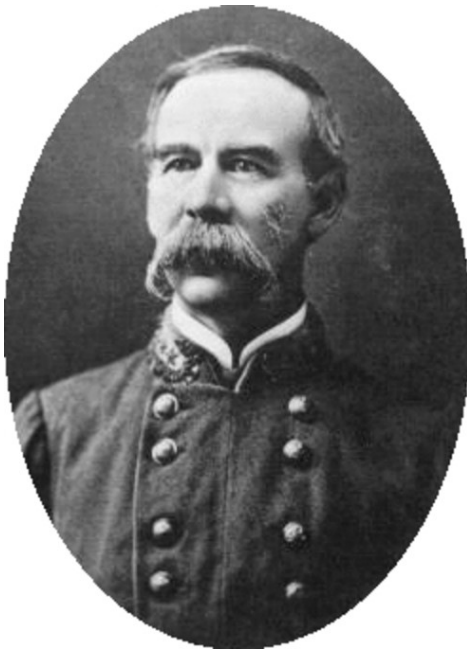


## Maj. Joseph Palmer's Battery (Southern Rights Battery) at the Battle of Perryville

by Bryan Bush

Joseph Palmer was born in South Carolina on July 10, 1835, and, after graduating from the Citadel, took two lectures at the Medical College in Charleston, attended the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, and had his medical internship at Bellevue Hospital in New York.

In 1858, he began his practice in Perry, Georgia. He bought 200 acres of land and built a home called Marl Crest. In January 1861, Palmer was a first lieutenant in the Southern Rights Guards, a militia group founded in 1859. On March 18, 1861, he became part of Col. James W. Ramsey's First Georgia Regiment, Confederate States Army, which served in Pensacola, Florida, and Carrick's Ford, in the mountains of West Virginia. After a year of service, the regiment was mustered out.



Confederate Major Joseph Palmer

When he returned to Georgia, Palmer reorganized his pre-war militia company, becoming Company A of the 14th Battalion, Georgia Light Artillery. Palmer was elected captain. The battery joined

Confederate general Braxton Bragg's Army of the Mississippi invasion of Kentucky, attached to John C. Brown's Brigade of Gen. William Hardee's Corps.

At 10 a.m. on October 8, 1862, the battery arrived on the field of battle at Perryville, Kentucky, when Brown's brigade was ordered to advance and marched for three-quarters of a mile. The battery stopped on the brow of a hill, and the men could see the battle raging beyond. Palmer wrote: "Great God how the balls did whistle."

The battery was then ordered forward, passing the Chatham house, and on their right was an apple orchard full of ripe apples. It came to Doctor's Creek, which was dry. The bluff on the other side of the creek was 10 feet high, and the first artillery section went up the hill and into action. The second section was left in the dry bed.

For one hour and fifteen minutes, the battery stood within 200 yards of the Union line commanded by Gen. William Lytle's Brigade, along with the 1st Michigan Battery and the 5th Indiana Battery. The opposing batteries faced each other without "waving a particle!" Palmer only had 17 men. He lost one killed and had 12 out of 18 horses killed or disabled. Several of his 7 wounded ended up being captured.

Darkness ended the battle, and Bragg's army retreated during the night. Palmer was promoted to major for his gallantry at the Battle of Perryville.

Next, Palmer's battery was attached to Confederate general John Hunt Morgan's cavalry and traveled 1,000 miles in fifteen days and fought in nine engagements. For his gallantry at the battle of Elizabethtown, Morgan presented Palmer with a sword captured



His uniform and sword, on display at the Cannonball Museum in Georgia

from a Federal by the name of Colonel Smith. After Morgan's Christmas Raid, Palmer was ordered by General Bragg to organize a battalion of reserve artillery. Eventually, Palmer became senior artillery officer of the Army of Tennessee. After the Battle of Bentonville, North Carolina, in 1865, Palmer was ordered to Danville, Virginia, to protect a portion of Lee's supply network. After Lee's surrender, Palmer joined Johnston at Greensboro, North Carolina, having the honor of commanding the first and last rear guard of the Confederate army east of the Mississippi.

Palmer married Lucy Lewis. They had seven children. She died in 1880, and Palmer then married Florence Hill. He had five children from the second marriage.

Palmer died on July 1, 1898, and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Perry, Houston County, Georgia.





MAJOR BENJAMIN F. FICKLIN  
CHAPTER 310

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

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## 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.*

## Major Lee's War against the Mossbacks (con't)

*(Continued from page 2)*

campaign captured 300 to 400 men and confiscated 75 heads of cattle and included Goldman Bryson, a known horse thief, serial murderer, and mossback leader with a commission in the federal army, being killed by two of Lee's Cherokee warriors.

Resistance continued as defeat and exploitation consolidated into mass discontent. Lee later led a campaign across South Georgia and even to the Okefenokee Swamp but found few men to return to the army.

Lee died on April 3, 1879, in Rome, Georgia.



The Lumpkin County courthouse Lee used as a headquarters is today the Dahlonega Gold Museum.

