



“Major’s Orders”

Major Benjamin F. Ficklin
Chapter 310

Military Order of the
Stars and Bars



VOLUME 2 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2024

Special Dates of Interest:

November 3, 2024 -
Daylight Savings Time -
Fall Back

November 5, 2024 -
Election Day

November 8-10, 2024
- Ft. Washita Living His-
tory

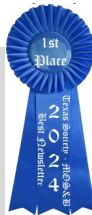
November 9, 2024 -
San Angelo Veterans Day
Parade

November 11, 2024 -
Veterans Day

November 15-16, 2024
- Ft. Richardson Living
History

November 28, 2024 -
Thanksgiving Day

December 6-8, 2024 -
Christmas at Old Ft. Con-
cho



2024 Texas Society Best Newsletter



Lt. Commander’s Lowdown

The holiday season is upon us once again. A time for giving thanks and relishing the blessings we have, Family, friends, country and compatriots.

It is also a time that we as a people elect the representatives that we wish to serve us in government. I will encourage all of you to go vote. If this country falls back into marxist despotism again, how will you answer your descendants when they ask you what you did to stop the fall?

Remember that Sunday, November 3rd is the time we set our clocks back an hour (fall back). I think along with this daylight savings thing we do, we should incorporate a week long holiday so we can adjust our internal body clocks.

Well, it’s a thought.

Looking on the calendar, there are several living history events upcoming. Ft. Washita and Ft. Richardson are in this month and the annual ‘Christmas at Old Ft. Concho’ will be held the first weekend in December. Ft. Washita is the weekend of November 8-10, 2024 near Durant, Oklahoma. Ft. Richardson’s event will be the following weekend, November 15-16, 2024 in Jacksboro, Texas. I have just finished reading an article about the Choctaw Nation’s Confederate Brigade fighting at Ft. Washita.



(Continued on page 5)

Inside this issue:

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Mason, Texas

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Second Manassas Campaign— Why Did It Happen?, What Happened? 4

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Member’s Anniversaries

Our Chapter has three members celebrating membership anniversaries this month:

Will Bowen - 23 years Nov. 6th
Roy Fiveash - 6 years Nov. 28th
Lee Hise - 6 years Nov. 19th



Due to the rising costs of medical tests, all you can do is pee under a tree and wait for a bit:

- If ants gather, you’ve got diabetes.
- If the grass dries up, it’s high salts.
- If it smells like BBQ, you cholesterol’s high.
- And if you forget to pull up your pants, you’ve got Alzheimer’s.

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'Old Yeller Days', Mason, Texas



Some of our members teaching frontier family and military history at 'Old Yeller Days' in Mason, Texas.



Benjamin Franklin Stringfellow: The Spy Who Spared a General

At five feet, eight inches tall and weighing barely 100 pounds, the diminutive Frank Stringfellow proved to be one of the Civil War’s most effective spies, acquiring and passing a bevy of secrets to the Confederacy about Union troop movements and plans throughout the conflict.

A scout in the 4th Virginia Cavalry, Stringfellow repeatedly donned civilian clothes, disguising himself as a dental apprentice, a store assistant, and even a woman, enabling him to operate freely and extensively in Washington, D.C., as well as in Union-occupied Alexandria, Virginia.



Catlett's Station, Virginia, scene of a Confederate cavalry raid on Army of Virginia Commander John Pope's headquarters, August 22, 1862, where the Confederates seized Pope's uniform, baggage and dispatch book, revealing critical intelligence that was later used to help secure a Confederate victory at the Second Battle of Bull Run. Frank Stringfellow guided the cavalry to Popes' headquarters. *Courtesy of the Library of Congress.*

In one instance, in August 1862, Stringfellow guided Confederate cavalry on a raid at Catlett's Station, Virginia, where the Union Army of Virginia, under the command of Major General John Pope, was headquartered. After overrunning Federal troops guarding Pope's tent, the Confederates seized documents, including Pope's dispatch book filled with valuable intelligence. The information was used to aid General Robert E. Lee in his decisive defeat of Pope's army at the Second Battle of Bull Run.

In April 1864, General Lee wrote to Confederate President Jefferson Davis, informing him of a report that Union General Ambrose Burnside was marching

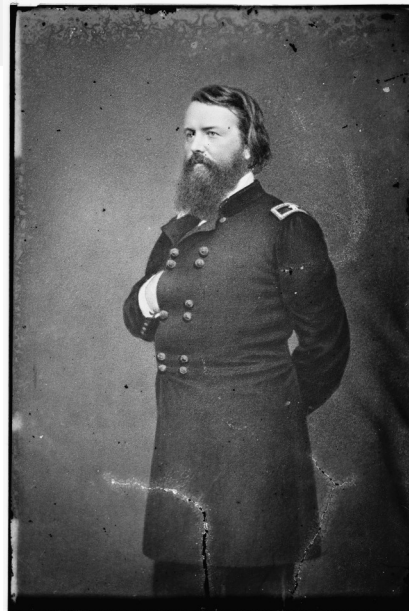


Post-war image of Confederate spy Frank Stringfellow. Known, in some circles, as the "most dangerous man in the Confederacy" for his intelligence tradecraft and his scouting prowess, Stringfellow became an Episcopal priest after the war, and with the assistance of former President Ulysses S. Grant, served as a Chaplain for the U.S. Army in the Spanish-American War.

with 23,000 troops through Alexandria and toward Confederate positions outside Richmond, Virginia. Lee believed the report came from Stringfellow and

was trusting enough of it to ask Davis that troops previously diverted to North Carolina be summoned back to Virginia to strengthen Confederate defenses there.

Stringfellow's daring led to capture on multiple occasions. After his first arrest, the Union failed to identify him as a spy and released him within days as part of a prisoner exchange. After his second arrest, he was jailed at the Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C., and interrogated by operatives of Union



Major General John Pope, Commander of the Union Army of Virginia

(Continued on page 5)

Second Manassas Campaign: Why Did It Occur? What Happened? By Greg Mertz

The morale of Confederate soldiers and civilians soared after the Seven Days Battles in midsummer 1862, raising hopes for foreign recognition of the Confederacy. However, within three months, following the Battle of Antietam, the Lincoln administration issued the Emancipation Proclamation, shifting the war’s purpose from merely restoring the Union to ending slavery. Sandwiched between these events was the Second Manassas Campaign.

By early 1862, both sides had main armies operating along the Washington–Richmond corridor, with smaller forces operating in or near the Shenandoah Valley. Confederate General Thomas J. “Stonewall”

Jackson achieved a series of small but impressive victories in the Shenandoah Valley in the spring of 1862, with his 17,000-man army accomplishing the brightest feats of the Confederacy.

Jackson’s success can be attributed, in part, to the fact that three different Federal departments in or adjacent to the Shenandoah Valley were never able to cooperate effectively with their 50,000 soldiers, which allowed him to confront each department separately. This prompted a command reorganization, merging the separate departments into the Army of Virginia under John Pope, just as the Seven Days Battles began.

In early June, Jackson left the Shenandoah Valley to reinforce General Robert E. Lee’s main army, maintaining independent command until his last autonomous battle at Cedar Mountain.

As the Second Manassas Campaign geared up in the late summer 1862, both sides were reassessing their army structures and leadership in the East. The Federal government established guidelines for Confederate-sympathizing civilians in occupied areas,

with strict consequences for violations. Confederate authorities grappled with countering practices they deemed unacceptable. This civilian issue contributed to bringing John Pope from the Western theater, as his policies contrasted with Union commander George McClellan’s more conciliatory approach.

Pope’s army faced the possibility of becoming the primary Union force in the East. After Pope an-



General John Pope

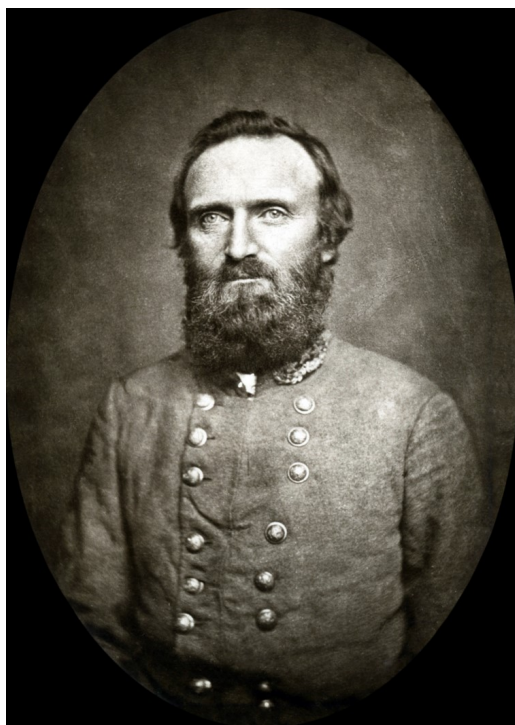
nounced the harsh policies toward Confederate-supporting civilians, Lee sent Jackson to intercept Pope’s advance toward Richmond, stressing the need “he ought to be suppressed.” Lee, however, had concerns about Jackson’s leadership style, noting that Jackson rarely explained the reasoning behind his

orders. Lee suggested that Jackson’s subordinates would act more intelligently if informed of the purpose of their movements.

Would Jackson heed Lee’s advice? If not, could he demonstrate that his leadership style was effective with a larger command than he previously directed in the Shenandoah Valley?

These questions would be answered in the Second Manassas Campaign.

[Blue-Gray Education Society]



General Stonewall Jackson in 1862

Benjamin Franklin Stringfellow (con't)

(Continued from page 3)

spymaster Allan Pinkerton, who threatened him with execution. Stringfellow was in his Confederate military uniform when captured, though, and was thus treated as an ordinary prisoner of war, rather than a spy, and subsequently exchanged once again.

Union soldiers captured Stringfellow for a third time in April 1865, but he escaped during his transfer to a prison in Maryland. At the same time, a man-hunt was underway following the assassination of

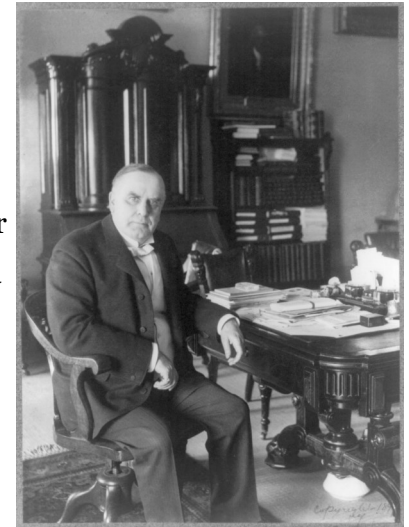


Ulysses S. Grant

President Lincoln, and Union authorities briefly suspected Stringfellow might be an accomplice of John Wilkes Booth, since the pair had once shared the same boarding house. Stringfellow fled to Canada, where he remained until 1867, when he returned to the United States to marry.

Later ordained an Episcopal priest, Stringfellow wrote a letter to President Ulysses S. Grant, revealing that in 1864, he had once been close enough

to shoot Grant, then commanding the entire Union Army, but could not bring himself to pull the trigger. Grant responded to the letter, thanking Stringfellow for sparing his life and promising that he or any future president would accommodate any request made by the former spy. In a letter to President William McKinley in 1898, Stringfellow referenced Grant’s offer, and asked that he be allowed to serve as an army chaplain in the Spanish-American War. McKinley agreed. Stringfellow died of a heart attack in 1913 at the age of 73 and is buried at the Ivy Hill Cemetery in Alexandria, Virginia.



President William McKinley

[www.intelligence.gov]



Lt. Commander’s Lowdown (con’t)

(Continued from page 1)

‘Christmas at Old Ft. Concho’ will be our Chapter’s fourth quarter event. Many of us will be there in uniform or period dress. There will be our combined artillery and infantry displays and a time for school kids learning real history.

This season also brings ‘membership renewal’, so you should be receiving your ‘dues renewal’ invoice in the mail in the next week or two. I am told there will be a ‘stamped, addressed envelope’ in the notice for easy return. Let us strive for 100% retention.

I just found a couple events that are going on around us and I have attached the flyers to the end of our newsletter. So kick back and enjoy "Major's Orders".



SOME PEOPLE REMIND ME OF OLD TV SETS. YOU HAVE TO HIT THEM A FEW TIMES UNTIL THEY GET THE PICTURE.





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

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

MOS&B National website: www.mosbhq.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.



Battles & Skirmishes

1861

November 3 – November 7 1861 – West Kentucky Operations, KY
November 21 – December 3 1861 – Ship Island Expedition, MS

1862

November 2 1862 – January 10 1863 – Grant's Central Mississippi Campaign, MS
November 14 – December 15 1862 – Fredericksburg Campaign, VA

1863

November 1 – November 8 1863 – Averell's Lewisburg Raid, WV
November 4 – December 3 1863 – Knoxville Campaign, TN
November 23 – November 25 1863 – Battles at Chattanooga, TN
November 25 – December 2 1863 – Mine Run Campaign, VA

1864

November 10 – November 14 1864 – Breckinridge's East Tennessee Raid, TN
November 15 – December 9 1864 – Sherman's March to the Sea, GA
November 20 – December 16 1864 – Hood's Invasion of Tennessee, TN



HOOD'S TEXAS BRIGADE



**ASSOCIATION,
RE-ACTIVATED**

1st Texas • 4th Texas • 5th Texas



18th Georgia • Hampton's Legion • 3rd Arkansas

"Honor and Duty"

15th Annual Scholarly Seminar

Huntsville, Texas

November 15-16, 2024

Deadline to Register November 8th.

Friday Afternoon History Activities November 15th

Minimum \$10.00 donation requested.

¶ 1:00-3:00 pm Special Exhibit and Tour of
John W. Thomason Rare Book Room

Hosted by Trent Shotwell, Curator

4th floor, Newton Gresham Library, 1830 Bobby K. Marks Dr.
Sam Houston State University ("see note on parking")

¶ 3:30-4:30 pm Tour of Sam Houston Memorial Museum
& Republic of Texas Presidential Library

1836 Sam Houston Avenue

No charge for seminar attendees ("see note on parking")

¶ 6:30 "Dutch Treat" Dinner at City Hall Café & Pie Bar

1421 Sam Houston Ave, Downtown Huntsville

About John W. Thomason, Jr. (1893-1944)

One of Huntsville's most outstanding citizens, John W. Thomason, Jr. was an author, artist, and United States Marine Corps officer. He was born in Huntsville, Texas, on February 28, 1893, the eldest of 9 children of John W. and Sue Hayes (Goree) Thomason. He is known not only for his military service but his writings and artwork. He was the author and illustrator of *Lone Star Preacher*, which featured fictionalized accounts of the exploits of Hood's Texas Brigade. Thomason had grown up hearing stories of the War from his uncles, the Goree Brothers.

In tribute to his late friend, J. Frank Dobie wrote: "In the name of people who, because of what you have written, are richer inside themselves and live more abundantly on the soil they belong to, I salute you, John W. Thomason, soldier in the old gallant tradition, fine Southern gentleman, and patriot who made your own corner of the earth more beautiful!"

(Excerpted from TSHA Handbook of Texas: <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/thomason-john-william-jr>)

Hood's Brigade Assn. website: www.hoodstexasbrigade.org
Our e-mail: htbar1967@yahoo.com

Subscribe Now!

*HTBAR programs: YouTube: <https://youtu.be/nmZSmtz4f0o>

Scholarly Seminar Day

Saturday, November 16th • \$85.00

(Student rate: \$40.00)

9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Katy & E. Don Walker, Sr. Education Center, 1402 19th
Street, Huntsville, Texas

Seminar Speakers

Dr. Richard McCaslin

Director of Publications, Texas State Historical Association

"All Gave Some: The Goree Brothers in the Civil War"

The Gorees of Huntsville gave their "full measure of devotion." Thomas J. Goree, served as a staff officer for Gen. James Longstreet for the duration of the war. Three of his brothers served in the Texas Brigade, two of whom suffered disabling wounds. Another brother served in the 6th Texas Cavalry Battalion, Trans-Mississippi, and was captured at Pleasant Hill in 1864; a half-brother served in the Texas State Troops and again briefly in a cavalry unit at the end of the war; their uncle died in Confederate service as an Alabama trooper. When the five full brothers posed with their sister for a family photograph in 1866, proudly holding paintings of their mother and father, it was a celebration of surviving a conflict from which too few families emerged without paying a price, as the Goree brothers knew all too well.

Wayne Motts

President Emeritus & Historian
Gettysburg Foundation

"Lone Star Men at Little Round Top"

Motts is President Emeritus & Historian of the Gettysburg Foundation. On 2 July 1863, elements of the 4th and 5th Texas Infantry of Hood's Division struggled for their lives attacking a small hill at Gettysburg. After being closed for nearly two years, Little Round Top, as it was later known to the Texas veterans, reopened on 24 June 2024 and with its reopening welcomed visitors to the hill after a facelift of 13 million dollars. Join historian Wayne Motts as he covers the fighting of the Texans on the hill and shows the great preservation work the NPS just completed. He will tell a few stories about the Texans there too!

Fred Adolphus

Independent Historian

"The Huntsville Penitentiary Mill in the Confederacy"

Adolphus is a retired Army museum director with a history degree from Texas A&M University and a master's degree in history (American Strategic Culture) from Louisiana State University. He is a native of Houston, Texas. The Huntsville Penitentiary textile mill was one of the largest mill west of Georgia at the outset of the War Between the States. From the start of the War, the Huntsville mill was the backbone of textile production for the Trans-Mississippi Department and remained vital to the war effort until the end.

Michael Pittmon

Independent Historian

Topic: "A Few Steps into Hell:

The Wartime Letters of the Berryman Brothers"

Pittmon is a 7th generation East Texan, who was inspired by the stories of his great grandmother, Helena Elmina Berryman Ginn. With Scott Mingus, Pittmon has at last published the long-anticipated family letters of the Berryman Brothers Henry Waters and Newt, who served in Co. I, 1st Texas Infantry, Hood's Texas Brigade. The letters provide an invaluable insight into what life was like in this storied brigade and many hitherto unavailable photographs.

See back page for registration, hotel & parking.



15th Annual Scholarly Seminar

November 15-16, 2024

Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas

Deadline to Register November 8th.
 (However, Late Registrations Accepted.)
 Call John Stevens at 713-885-5288 for "Last Minute")

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + 4 _____

e-mail: _____

Telephone: _____

License Plate No. (for Parking) _____

Friday Afternoon Activities: \$10.00 donation per person requested

- No. attending: _____
- Students attending: _____

Saturday Seminar & Lunch: \$85.00

Student Rate: \$40.00

- No. attending: _____
- Students attending: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Names of others attending: _____

TWO OPTIONS FOR PAYMENT:

(1) **Pay Online via Square:** If you pay by Square, we request that you make a \$3.00 donation for the Saturday seminar and the Friday donation to cover the service charge incurred by Square. We still need you to print out and mail in your registration information to John Stevens, Treasurer, address below. Please don't forget to keep a copy for yourself. You could also fill out the form, take a photo, and text to John at cell # noted below. To pay for both Friday and Saturday, use this link: <https://hoodstexasbrigadeassn.square.site/>

(2) **Mail Check & Form:** Please make check payable to Hood's Texas Brigade Association, Re-Activated (or HTBAR). Indicate it is for the 2024 HTBAR Seminar. Mail to HTBAR c/o John Stevens at 2427 Pioneer Oaks Drive, Fresno, TX 77545. Cell 713-885-5288; e-mail: htbar1967@yahoo.com

For information contact Glenn Carroll, President, at gecnotify@gmail.com, or John Stevens, Treasurer, at htbar1967@yahoo.com
 website: www.hoodstexasbrigade.org 6/19/24

Friday Afternoon Activities

Friday, November 15th \$10.00 donation
 John W. Thomason Rare Book Room: 1- 3 pm
 Tour of Sam Houston Museum & Republic of Texas Presidential Library 3:30 - 4:30 pm
 Dutch Treat Dinner at City Hall Café & Pie Bar 6:30 pm
 1421 Sam Houston Ave, Downtown Huntsville
YES I am planning to attend (help us secure space at the cafe)
 (see p. 1 for addresses for all sites)

Saturday Scholarly Seminar

Outstanding Speakers • Vendors • Lunch Included
Registration opens at 8:00 am.

Saturday, November 16th \$85.00
 (Student rate: \$40.00)
 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
 Registration opens at 8:00 am

Speaker Book Signings • Exhibits • Raffle • Sales

Conference Hotel

University Hotel, Sam Houston State University
 1610 Bobby K Marks, Huntsville, TX 77341 • 936-496-2151

Group Rate: \$98.96 (PLUS TAX)

Breakfast NOT included.

When making reservations, cite "24IHOOD" plus dates.
 Limited number of rooms available.

Deadline for reservations 10/25/24; cancel by 10/15/24.

*For free hotel parking in surface lots, you must provide your license plate, make, model and color of your vehicle prior to or immediately after arrival. Garage parking is not included.

Event Parking:

Katy & E. Don Walker, Sr. Education Center: Parking available on surface lots. John W. Thomason Rare Book Library: Parking available on surface lot; library will need your license plate number for free parking.

Sam Houston Memorial Museum Limited parking is available by the Sam Houston Memorial Museum and Wigwam Neosho Museum Store while there is plenty of parking available at the Katy & E. Don Walker, Sr. Education Center. You are welcome to park either inside the museum grounds, if spaces are available, or at the Education Center – just keep in mind that our museum grounds are spread out over fifteen acres and there will be a bit of walking! Bus and RV Parking is available at the Walker Education Center.

To be added to our mailing list, e-mail Martha Hartzog @ m.hartzog@mail.utexas.edu

INTERESTED IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY? COMPETITIVE SHOOTING WITH CIVIL WAR WEAPONS?



TEXAS SKIRMISH ASSOCIATION CIVIL WAR SKIRMISH

MATCHES

TEAM MUSKET

&

TEAM

SMOOTHBORE

DATE: November 9th, 2024

TEAM COMPETITION IN MUSKET & SMOOTHBORE.

SHOOT FEES: \$10 FOR ENTIRE EVENT (BOTH MATCHES)

LUNCH PROVIDED AT THE RANGE (DONATION REQUESTED)

<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
8:00 A.M.	REGISTRATION
8:30 A.M.	RANGE SETUP
9:00 A.M.	MUSKET MATCH
TBD (AFTER LUNCH)	SMOOTHBORE MATCH

**Alamo Muzzle Loading
Gun Club**

**THE ALAMO MUZZLE LOADING GUN CLUB RANGE IS
LOCATED IN LA COSTE, TEXAS, WEST OF SAN
ANTONIO AND SOUTH OF U.S. 90.**



PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE FOR DIRECTIONS.

WWW.AMLGC.COM

CONTACT: amlclub@gmail.com



INTERESTED IN CIVIL WAR HISTORY?

SHOOT CIVIL WAR WEAPONS?