



# Rebel Underground

Sons of Confederate Veterans  
Major John C. Hutto Camp #443  
Jasper, Alabama

---

**Published Monthly**

**December 2023**

---

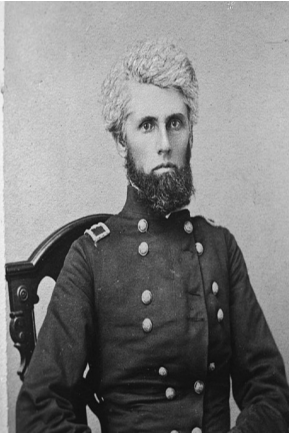
The Major John C. Hutto Camp's 2023 Christmas Party  
will be in Jasper, Alabama on

**Sunday, 17 December 2023 at 2:00PM**

Due to Victoria's Restaurant closing at 2:30pm  
the Christmas Party will be at the  
First United Methodist Church's Adult Center

Catered by Son's Smokehouse  
Speaker - Terry Barkley  
Music - Tony Pennington

## **He Died in Place of His Brother Dr. Michael Bradley**



U.S. general Eleazer A. Payne | public domain

Today, a crumbling limestone shaft on the lawn of the courthouse in Fayetteville, Tennessee, is a reminder of an event that is both an example of a tragedy and an act of bravery from the days of the Civil War.

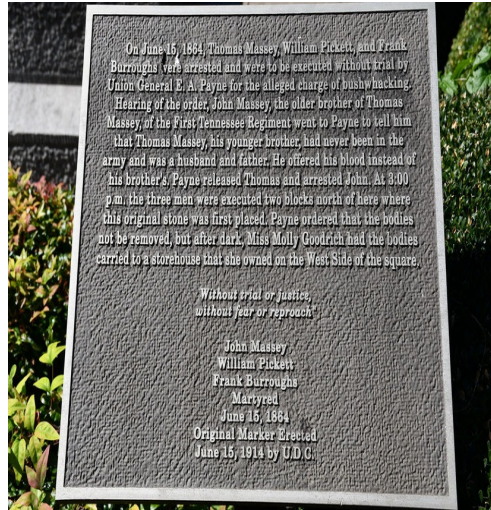
The inscription on the stone marker commemorates the deaths on July 15, 1864, of three civilian residents of the town: William Pickett, Franklin Burroughs, and John R. Massey.

Although the main armies were deep in north Georgia in July 1864, Middle Tennessee was something of a “no-man’s land,” with small garrisons of Union soldiers surrounded by numerous bands of irregular, or guerilla, fighters who supported the Confederacy. U.S. general Eleazer A. Payne, in command of the area, had resorted to drastic measures in opposition to these guerillas. On July 15, Payne led a detachment of U.S. cavalry into the town of Fayetteville and began arresting citizens. Payne

announced that three of these citizens would be executed at 3:00 that afternoon if information was not given to him about the location of guerilla encampments.



John Massey, William Pickett and Frank Burroughs Memorial Stone in Fayetteville, Tennessee



Plaque for the martyrs stone | CC

The names of the three men chosen for execution were William Pickett, Franklin Burroughs, and Thomas Massey. Pickett had come to town to make some needed purchases at the general store.

Burroughs was making arrangements for his wedding, which was to be on July 16. And Thomas Massey was on his way to work. None of the men were guerillas, nor were they Confederate veterans.

About 1 p.m., a horse galloped along the street to the courthouse, and John Massey dismounted, loudly calling to the guards that he needed to see General Payne. On being led to see the general, Massey said that his brother, Thomas, had never been in the Confederate army, that he had only recently married, and his wife was expecting their first child.

Then John said, “I was in the army but was discharged due to health. If you want Massey blood, take mine and let my brother go.” General Payne agreed.

At 3 p.m., John Massey walked to the edge of town, along with Pickett and Burroughs, guarded by U.S. soldiers. At a point near the current public library, the group halted and, according to the testimony of one of the soldiers involved, the three hostages were told to say their prayers.

Burroughs and Franklin fell to their knees, but Massey said, “Stand up to pray. Don’t let these dogs think you are kneeling to them.” Then, ripping his shirt open, Massey said, “Do you so-called soldiers think you can hit this target at this close range? Aim right here.” Shots then rang out. At dusk, Miss Molly Goodrich, Burroughs’ bride-to-be on the next day, ventured to the place where she had heard shots fired and found the bodies.

The actions of General Payne were in direct violation of the Articles of War as contained in General Orders #100, U.S. Army, but no action was taken against him for these murders, and he continued to engage in similar atrocities against Confederate civilians. John R. Massey remains a hero, a man who died in the place of his brother.

Source: The Fayetteville Times, April 12, 1915. On the 50th anniversary of the end of the war, the local paper interviewed residents of the area who were eyewitnesses to the war in Middle Tennessee. These included the surviving Massey brother and a letter from one of the U.S. soldiers who witnessed the execution.

## HUTTO CAMP OFFICERS

---

Commander . . . . .	James R. Blackston
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Cmd . . . . .	Trent Harris
2nd Lt. Cmd . . . . .	Jeremy Jackson
Adjutant . . . . .	John McGraw
Chaplain . . . . .	Barry Cook
Judge Advocate . . . . .	Cherokee Brasher
Communications . . . . .	Gene Herren
Facebook . . . . .	Brandon Prescott - Jeremy Jackson
Quartermaster . . . . .	Barry Cook
Newsletter Editor . . . . .	James Blackston

---

Website: [www.huttocamp.com](http://www.huttocamp.com)

Facebook - [Hutto Camp](#)

The Rebel Underground, is the official monthly publication of the Major John C. Hutto Camp #443. Articles published are not necessarily the views or opinions of the Executive Board or the Editor.

The fair use of any included copyrighted work is for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, or research, and is for nonprofit educational purposes only. 17 U.S. Code § 107

The Rebel Underground is dedicated to bringing our readers the very best of important news concerning Confederate History and Southern Heritage. We are not ashamed of our Confederate History and Southern Heritage. We dare to defend our rights.