

## Captain James M. Hawes

Charter Member of Rocky Mountain Lodge No. 205 A.F.&A.M.

by George F. Winters, Historian

James Morrison Hawes was born January 7, 1824, at Lexington, Kentucky.

James Hawes did not follow the family tradition and enrolled at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York on July 1, 1841, graduating on July 1, 1845, 29<sup>th</sup> in his class<sup>1</sup>. He was Brevetted 2nd Lieutenant, 2nd Dragoons, July 1, 1845.

He served in the war with Mexico, 1846-48, being engaged in the Siege of Vera Cruz, March 9-29, 1847, Skirmish of San Juan de los Llanos, August 1, 1847 (Brevetted 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant for Gallant and Meritorious Conduct in the Affair of San Juan de los Llanos, Mexico), Battle of Contreras, August 19, 1847, Battle of Molino del Rey, September 8, 1847, and Operations before and Capture of the City of Mexico, September 12-14, 1847.

He is invited to the Military Academy at West Point, New York during 1848-50, as Assistant Instructor of Infantry Tactics June 24 to August 31, 1848. Assistant Professor of Mathematics, August 31, 1848, to April 14, 1849, and Assistant Instructor of Cavalry Tactics, April 14, 1849, to December 10, 1850.

He is next on professional duty at the Cavalry School of Saumur, in France, 1850-52.

Back in the United States, he is assigned to frontier duty at Fort Inge, Texas, 1852, then to Fort Graham, Texas for the remainder of 1852 into 1853, Fort Chadbourne, Texas, 1853-55, He is next at Fort Riley, Kansas, 1855-56, where he is promoted to Captain, 2d Dragoons on December 13, 1855; and on detached service at Washington, D. C., 1857. About this time, he marries Maria Jane Southgate and their first child, a daughter, Hetty Morrison Hawes (1858–1927) is born on 3 Jan 1858 at Paris, Bourbon, Kentucky.

Captain Hawes is attached to the Utah Expedition and is stationed at Fort Bridger Utah Territory at this time. He remains with the expedition traveling through Salt Lake on June 26, 1858, then proceeding first to the “Upper Camp” also known as “Old Camp Floyd”, and finally onto the permanent settlement at Camp Floyd. He remains at Camp Floyd for most of the next three years, and as noted is a member of Rocky Mountain Lodge No. 205 until the Lodge disbands when troops are pulled back east. With the secession of the southern states in 1861, he resigned his commission and returned to Kentucky. He was appointed a Major in the 2nd Kentucky Confederate Cavalry. October, General Albert Sidney Johnston wrote to Mr. Davis, asking for the appointment of Major Hawes as a brigadier general. This was done on March 5, 1862. From the time that General Johnston took command of the Western department until April 7, 1862, Hawes commanded the cavalry and had the advance of the army at Green River, Kentucky, 1861-62<sup>2</sup>.



After Shiloh he asked to be relieved of command of the cavalry of the Western army and was assigned to the command of a brigade in Breckinridge's division, composed of one Kentucky, one Mississippi and one Confederate regiment. In October he was sent to the Trans-Mississippi, where he commanded a Texas cavalry brigade near Little Rock, Ark., under Gen. T. H. Holmes.

He commanded a brigade of cavalry in raids throughout Arkansas and at the Battle of Milliken's Bend, Louisiana. From February 1864, until the end of the war, he was in command of the fortifications and garrison of Galveston Island, Texas.

After the war the couple returned to Kentucky, only to find nothing left of the family homestead in Paris. It was with that background that James and Maria Hawes and their children settled in Covington in 1866<sup>3</sup>.

After the war he engaged in the hardware business in Covington, Kentucky. He remained in that business until his death at age sixty-six.

James M. Hawes died at home on 22 November 1889, Covington, Kenton, Kentucky. He is buried at Highland Cemetery, Fort Mitchell, Kenton County, Kentucky, USA. PLOT Section 4, Lot 21, Grave 1

James Morrison Hawes made headlines again in January 1925 when the United Daughters of the Confederacy honored him with a service cross medal. A grandson, Albert Carey Hawes, accepted the medal on behalf of his late grandfather<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://civilwarintheeast.com/west-point-officers-in-the-civil-war/class-of-1845/> visited August 16, 2019

<sup>2</sup> <https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=3867&h=1254&ssrc=pt&tid=10965519&pid=192030693856&usePUB=true> visited August 27, 2019

<sup>3</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20051115220227/http://www.kypost.com/2002/apr/29/reis042902.html>, "Confederate general called Covington home" visited August 27, 2019