

HAMMOND, LAFAYETTE

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HAMMOND, LAFAYETTE, born at Milton, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, August 12, 1829, son of Robert Hanna and Eliza (Clark) Hammond; his father served as Lieutenant in the War of 1812, was Congressman from Pennsylvania, 1837-41, and died in 1847 from wounds received in the Mexican War; his brother, Thomas C., a graduate of West Point, was killed in action with Mexicans at San Pasqual, California, December 6, 1846, while serving as 2nd Lieutenant under General S. W. Kearny.

Educated in a Military Institute at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; went to California in 1854 and became Cashier of the U. S. Mint in San Francisco; appointed, age 31, as 1st Lieutenant and Regimental Quartermaster, 1st California Infantry, August 15, 1861, and went with the Regiment to Southern California; left Fort Yuma May 16 and arrived in Tucson in June, 1862; left Tucson July 23 for the Rio Grande and was at Mesilla when promoted to Captain and transferred to Company H, same Regiment.

Assumed Command of the Company at Hart's Mill near El Paso, Texas, in November, 1862; and stationed in that vicinity until June, 1863; went with the Company to Fort Wingate, N.M. and remained there until he resigned on September 23, 1863, to accept promotion to Major, 2nd Ohio Heavy Artillery; served with that Regiment, principally in Kentucky, until honorably mustered out at Nashville, Tennessee, August 23, 1865.

Appointed 1st Lieutenant in the Regular Army, April 10, 1867; assigned to Company A, 23rd U.S. Infantry, and joined the Company in Idaho Territory; left Boise City, July 1, and arrived at

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Ehrenburg, A.T., August 19, 1872; marched in command of the Company to Camp Verde arriving September 24, 1872; appointed Regimental Adjutant and joined the headquarters of the Regiment at Fort Whipple, April 21, 1873; his death was announced as follows:

HEADQUARTERS 23d INFANTRY, Fort Whipple, A.T.,
Sept 19, 1873.

General Orders No. 16. - It becomes the painful duty of the Regimental Commander, to announce to his Regiment the death of 1st Lieut. Lafayette Hammond, at Fort Yuma, Cal., on the 6th inst., of disease of the brain. The son of an old Army officer, and of an Army family, his loss will be deeply felt, and by none more than the officers of his own regiment, who lose a sincere friend, a genial companion, and an honorable gentleman. The service loses a valuable officer.

The usual badge of mourning will be worn for thirty days.

By order of Lieut. Colonel Geo. Crook:

Chas. Bird, 1st Lieutenant and Adjutant.

An obituary in the Army and Navy Journal stated:

Major Hammond was a man of large and imposing presence, and his face was the perfection of manly beauty. His heart was as large as his body, and his face but reflected the beauty of his character. As a friend he was steadfast, generous, noble and true. An officer of rare excellence, a man, chivalric, honorable, and fearless, he was highly esteemed and appreciated by all who knew him.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Adjutant General of the Army - Military Service Records
Orton, R.H. - Records of California Men in the War of the
Rebellion, 1890, pp. 335, 367.

Pennsylvania Commandery, Military Order of the Loyal Legion -
Register, 1865-1902, p. 95, no. 755

The Army and Navy Journal, October 11, 1873, p. 133

The Arizona Miner, Prescott, September 27, 1873 (death notice).