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David Allen

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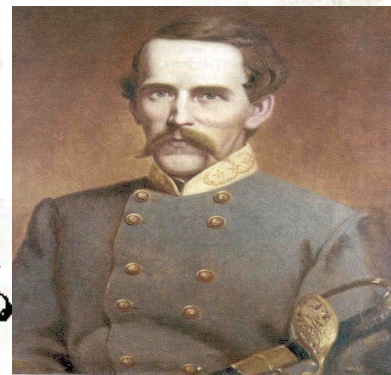
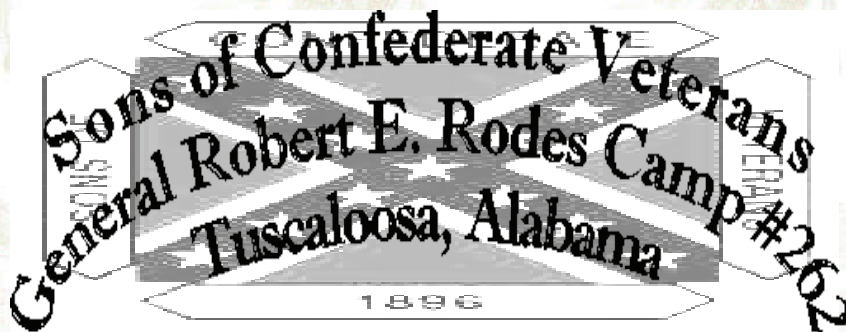
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April 2009



I salute the Confederate Flag with Affection, Reverence, and undying Devotion to the Cause for which it stands.

Notes From The Adjutant

The Robert E. Rodes Camp #262 will meet at 7 pm, April 9, 2009 in the Rotary Room at the Tuscaloosa Public Library

The speaker will be John Mullis, a re-enactor who will speak on Cavalry equipment and taxes.

Members who have not yet paid their dues are reminded that their dues are now \$57.50, which includes a late fee of \$5.00 for SCV National and \$2.50 for Alabama Division.

APRIL is Confederate History and Heritage Month

Upcoming Events



9 April - Camp Meeting
26 April - Confederate Memorial Day - 3pm Greenwood Cemetery

14 May - Camp Meeting
22-24 May - Tannehill Reenactment

11 June - Camp Meeting

9 July - Camp Meeting "Show and Tell" TBD

August - Summer Stand Down and Bivouac
Camp Meeting

10 September - Camp Meeting

15 October - Camp Meeting

The *Rodes Brigade Report* is a monthly publication by the Robert E. Rodes SCV Camp #262 to preserve the history and legacy of the citizen-soldiers who, in fighting for the Confederacy, personified the best qualities of America. The preservation of liberty and freedom was the motivating factor in the South's decision to fight the *Second American Revolution*. The tenacity with which Confederate soldiers fought underscored their belief in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. These attributes are the underpinning of our democratic society and represent the foundation on which this nation was built.

The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans, and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, Virginia in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 period is preserved. Edited by James B. Simms; non-member subscriptions are available for \$15. Please send information, comments, or inquiries to Robert E. Rodes Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp #262, PO Box 1417, Tuscaloosa, AL 34501 or jbsimms@comcast.net.

General Robert Emmet Rodes (1829-1864)

The Robert E. Rodes Camp #262 is named in memory of Robert Emmet Rodes. General Rodes was born in Lynchburg, Virginia, on March 30, 1829; the son of General David Rodes and Martha Yancey. Attending Virginia Military Institute, he graduated in July 1848, standing 10th in a class of 24 graduates; Assistant Professor (Physical Science, Chemistry, Tactics) at VMI, 1848-1850. He married Virginia Hortense Woodruff (1833-1907), of Tuscaloosa, Alabama in September 1857. They had 2 children: Robert Emmet Rodes, Jr. (1863-1925) and a daughter, Bell Yancey Rodes (1865-1931).

He taught at VMI as an assistant professor until 1851. He left when a promotion he wanted to full professor was given instead to Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, a future Confederate general and commander of his. Rodes used his civil engineering skills to become chief engineer for the Alabama & Chattanooga Railroad in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He held this position until the start of the Civil War. Although born a Virginian, he chose to serve his adopted state of Alabama.

He started his Confederate service as a Colonel in command of the 5th Alabama Infantry regiment, in the brigade commanded by Major General Richard S. Ewell, with which he first saw combat at the 1st Bull Run. He was promoted to Brigadier General on October 21, 1861, and commanded a brigade under Major General Daniel H. Hill. In the Peninsula Campaign, Rodes was wounded in the arm at Seven Pines and was assigned to light duty in the defenses of Richmond, Virginia while he recuperated.

He recovered in time for General Robert E. Lee's first invasion of the north in September, 1862, fighting at South Mountain and Sharpsburg. At Sharpsburg, he commanded one of two brigades that held out so long against the Union assault on the sunken road, or "Bloody Lane", at the center of the Confederate line, suffering heavy casualties. Rodes was lightly wounded by shell fragments.

At Chancellorsville, Rodes was a division commander in Stonewall Jackson's corps. He was the only division-level commander in Lee's army who had not graduated from West Point. He was temporarily placed in command of the corps on May 2, 1863, when Jackson was mortally wounded and Lieutenant General A.P. Hill was also wounded, but Lee quickly replaced him with the more experienced Major General J.E.B. Stuart. Jackson on his deathbed recommended that Rodes be promoted to major general and this promotion was back-dated to be effective May 2nd.

When Lee reorganized the Army of Northern Virginia to compensate for the loss of Jackson, Rodes joined the II Corps under Ewell. At Gettysburg, on July 1, Rodes led the assault south from Oak Hill against the right flank of the Union I Corps. Although he successfully routed the division of Major Gen. John C. Robinson and drove it back through the town, the attack was not as well coordinated or pursued as aggressively as his reputation would have implied. His division sat mostly idle for the remaining two days of the battle. After performing poorly at Gettysburg, and recovered his reputation somewhat by performing better at Spotsylvania Court House.

Rodes continued to fight with Ewell's corps through the Overland Campaign of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. Ewell was replaced by Major General Jubal A. Early and his corps was sent by Lee to the Shenandoah Valley to draw Union forces away from the Siege of Petersburg, in the Valley Campaign. They conducted a long and successful raid down the Valley, into Maryland, and reached the outskirts of Washington, D.C., before turning back. Major Gen. Philip Sheridan was sent by Grant to drive Early from the Valley.

On September 19, 1864, Sheridan attacked the Confederates at Opequon/3rd Winchester. Several wives of Confederate officers were chased from town during the attack and Rodes managed to save Major Gen. John B. Gordon's wife from capture. Rodes and Gordon prepared to attack Sheridan's forces when Rodes was struck in the back of his head by a Union shell fragment. He died on the field outside Winchester.

Rodes was a modest but inspiring leader. He was mourned by the Confederacy as a promising, brave, and aggressive officer killed before he could achieve greatness. Lee and other high-ranking officers wrote sympathetic statements. He was buried at Spring Hill Cemetery in Lynchburg, Virginia next to his brother, Virginius Hudson Rodes; and his parents. His wife Virginia Hortense is buried in Alabama, her home state.

His Major Commands included Rode's Brigade/D.H. Hill's Division and Rodes Division/II Corps.

Historical Markers of Tuscaloosa County

Alabama Corps of Cadets Defends Tuscaloosa

(side one)

Early on the morning of 4 April 1865, Union Gen John T. Croxton's Cavalry Brigade of 1500 veteran troopers entered the town after fighting the home guard and capturing the covered bridge connecting Northport and Tuscaloosa across the Warrior River. While a detachment of Federals proceeded to capture two pieces of artillery stored at the Broad St. livery stable, Pat Kehoe of the Alabama Insane Hospital hurried to the University of Alabama to warn of the soldiers' approach. University president Landon C. Garland ordered the guardhouse drummers to "beat the long roll" to awaken the 300 sleeping cadets. Quickly forming into ranks, the three companies began their march from campus into town. A platoon from Co. C, under Capt John H. Murfee, formed as skirmishers and forged ahead to the corner of Greensboro Ave. and Broad St. (University Blvd.) where they encountered the enemy from the 6th Ky Cav Regt. In the ensuing firefight, Capt Murfee was wounded along with three cadets, W.R. May, Aaron T. Kendrick and William M. King. The Union pickets then retreated down the hill back toward the bridge.

Alabama Corps of Cadets Defends Tuscaloosa

(side two)

The bloodied cadet platoon rejoined the main body of the Corps which had advanced at the sound of fighting. Together they proceeded one block north to the brow of River Hill and took up positions, firing several volleys down on the Union enemy by the river. Learning from a Confederate officer who had been captured and temporarily released by Croxton that the Yankee force included 1500 arms and the two captured cannons, President Garland and Commandant of Cadets Colonel James T. Murfee decided that an attack with teen-aged boys would be a useless sacrifice. The Corps marched the 1½ miles back to the campus, fortified themselves with what provisions were available, and continued east on Huntsville Rd. Crossing Hurricane Creek some eight miles from town, they unplanked the bridge and entrenched themselves on the east bank. Croxton did not pursue, instead exploding the University's ammunition supplies and setting the campus ablaze. After witnessing the destruction from afar, the cadets marched east, then south to Marion. There, the Corps disbanded with orders to re-form in one month's time; the war ended in the interval.

Captain Benjamin F. Eddins

Born in South Carolina in 1813, Benjamin Farrar Eddins raised and led a company of volunteers that served in the 41st Alabama Infantry Regiment. Retired due to ill health, he returned to lead the Home Guards, a militia made up of old men and young boys. While trying to render the covered bridge impassable to Federal troops on the night of April 3, 1865, he and 15-year-old John Carson were wounded in a skirmish with Croxton's Raiders. Later that evening, Mayor Obediah Berry and Catholic priest William McDonough surrendered the city on this site. Carson was disabled for life. On April 10, 1865, Capt. Eddins became the only local citizen to die defending the city. He is buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

Confederate Generals Birthdays for April

Lt. General Simon Bolivar Buckner - 1 Apr. 1823 - Hart Co., Ky.
 Lt. General Leonidas Polk - 10 Apr. 1806 - Raleigh, N.C.
 Maj. General Charles William Field - 6 Apr. 1828 - Woodford Co., Ky.
 Maj. General Edward Johnson - 16 Apr. 1816 - Salisbury, Va.
 Maj. General David Rumph Jones - 5 Apr. 1825 - Orangeburg Dist., S.C.
 Maj. General Edward Cary Walthall - 4 Apr. 1831 - Richmond, Va.
 Maj. General Ambrose Ransom Wright - 26 Apr. 1826 - Louisville, Ga.
 Brig. General Henry Watkins Allen - 29 Apr. 1820 - Prince Edward Co., Va.
 Brig. General George Gurgwyn Adneron - 12 Apr. 1831 - Hillsborough, N.C.
 Brig. General Henry Lewis Benning - 2 Apr. 1814 - Columbia County, Ga.
 Brig. General Thomas Reade Rootes Cobb - 10 Apr. 1823 - Jefferson Co., Ga.
 Brig. General Phillip St. George Cocke - 17 Apr. 1808 - Fluvanna Co., Va.

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Confederate Generals Birthdays (Continued)

Brig. General Alfred Holt Colquitt - 20 Apr. 1824 - Walton Co., Ga.
 Brig. General James Dearing - 25 Apr. 1840 - Campbell Co., Va.
 Brig. General Geroge Gibbs Dibrell - 12 Apr. 1822 - Sparta, Tenn.
 Brig. General James Edward Harrison - 24 Apr. 1815 - Greenville Dist., S.C.
 Brig. General Harry Thompson Hays - 14 Apr. 1820 - Wilson Co., Tenn.
 Brig. General Geroge Baird Hodge - 8 Apr. 1828 - Fleming Co., Ky.
 Brig. General Evander McNair - 15 Apr. 1820 - Richmond Co., N.C.
 Brig. General John Smith Preston - 20 Apr. 1809 - Abingdon, Va.
 Brig. General James Edward Rains - 10 Apr. 1833 - Nashville, Tenn.
 Brig. General Alexander Welch Reynolds - in of Apr. 1816 - Frederick Co., Va.
Brig. General Phillip Dale Roddey - 2 Apr. 1826 - Moulton, Ala.
Brig. General John Caldwell Calhoun Sanders - 4 Apr. 1840 - Tuscaloosa, Ala.
 Brig. General Leroy Augustus Stafford - 13 Apr. 1822 - Cheneyville, La.
 Brig. General Robert Frank Vance - 24 Apr. 1828 - Buncombe Co., N.C.
 Brig. General William Stephen Walker - 13 Apr. 1822 - Pittsburg, Penn.
 Brig. General Edward Cary Walthall - 4 Apr. 1831 - Richmond, Va.
 Brig. General Louis Trezevant Wigfall - 21 Apr. 1816 - Edgfield Dist., S.C.

Civil War Units from Alabama

Twenty-First Alabama Infantry Regiment

The Twenty-first was mustered into service Oct. 13, 1861, at Mobile, and remained at Hall's Mill and Fort Gaines till ordered to Fort Pillow in March 1862. It remained there a few days, then moved to Corinth, where it was brigaded under Gen. Gladden. The regiment took part in the battle of Shiloh, where it lost six color-bearers in succession, and 200 killed and wounded out of about 650 engaged and was complimented in general orders. On the return to Corinth, the regiment was reorganized, and extended their enlistment from one year to "for the war." The Twenty-first was at Farmington, but its casualties were few. In the summer the regiment was ordered to Mobile, and was on garrison duty at Fort Morgan, and at Oven and Chocta Bluffs.* It was at Pollard a short time under Gen. Cantey, but was then ordered to the defenses of Mobile. Two companies were stationed at Fort Powell, where, with a loss of one killed, they withstood a bombardment of a fortnight from five gun-boats and six mortar-boats which attempted to force an entrance through Grant's Pass. Six companies of the regiment were captured at Fort Gaines, and two at Fort Morgan; but the two at Fort Powell blew up and evacuated the post. The men captured at Fort Gaines were exchanged, the others were not. The remainder of the regiment were part of the garrison of Spanish Fort, where it lost about 10 killed and 25 wounded. The Twenty-first was surrendered at Cuba, in Sumter, May 6, 1865, about 250 strong. It is but just to say that the Twenty-first was composed largely of artisans from Mobile, many of whom were detached to assist in the various government works.

*It was while the regiment lay at Mobile that a sub-marine boat was constructed to operate against the blockading squadron. After ten or fifteen men had been lost by the sudden sinking of the vessel, Lieut. George E. Dixon, of Capt. Cothran's company, with several of his men, volunteered to man it. But the current at the entrance of the bay was too strong, and Dixon and his men accompanied it to Charleston. There it went to sea one night, and blew up the Housatonic, of the federal blockading squadron, causing her to sink, with all her crew. The fate of Dixon and his men was not known till after the peace, when his boat was found by the side of the Housatonic, and in its airtight walls were encoffined the skeletons of the brave crew. Dixon was a Kentuckian by birth and an engineer by profession.

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Alabama Civil War Unit (Continued) :

Field and Staff

Colonels - James Crawford of Mobile; resigned. Charles D. Anderson of Mobile; captured at Fort Gaines.

Lieutenant Colonels - A.J. Ingersoll of Mobile; resigned. Stewart W. Cayce of Mobile; resigned. Charles S. Stewart of Mobile; killed at Fort Morgan. J.M. Williams of Mobile.

Majors - Frederick Stewart of Mobile; till re-organized. Jas. M. Williams; promoted. Chas. B. Johnson of Mobile.

Adjutants - S.W. Cayce; promoted. James M. Williams; transferred to line. George Vidmer of Mobile; wounded at Spanish Fort.

Captains, and Counties from Which the Companies Came.

Mobile - John F. Jewett; till re-organization. James M. Williams; promoted. Jno. F. Cothran; captured at Ft. Morgan.

Mobile - Charles B. Johnson; promoted. John O'Connor; captured at Fort Gaines.

Marengo - J.M. Rembert; wounded at Shiloh; died in the service. F. Smith; captured at Fort Gaines.

Mobile - Cary W. Butt; wounded at Shiloh; resigned. Melville C. Butt.

Marengo - John C. Chamberlain; resigned. Henry Sosaman; captured at Fort Gaines.

Mobile and Baldwin - F.J. McCoy; till re-organized. B. F. Dade; captured at Fort Gaines.

Mobile - S.S. Taylor; died in the service. Murdock McInnis; captured at Fort Gaines.

Mobile - Charles Devaux. Angelo Fistorazzi. (Companies transferred to the First Louisiana.)

Mobile - Charles S. Stewart; promoted. A.P. Doran; captured at Fort Morgan; resigned. C. LeBaron Collins; captured at Fort Morgan.

(Conscripts) 1862 - A.S. Carrington; captured at Ft. Gaines.

(Conscripts) 1862 - Edw. Spalding; captured at Ft. Gaines.

After a year-long search, Jefferson Davis statue has a home



Beauvoir, the last home of Jefferson Davis, reopened after Hurricane Katrina destroyed the historic home - Associated Press

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Published: February 11, 2009

http://www.nbc13.com/vtm/news/local/article/after_a_year-long_search_jefferson_davis_statue_has_a_home/58956/

The "Sons of Confederate Veterans," which has been looking for somewhere to place a statue of Jefferson Davis for more than a year, may have found the spot.

The director of Beauvoir, Davis' last home, says he'd love to have the life size bronze sculpture of the former President of the Confederacy.

Richard Forte says the statue of Davis, with his hand extended, looks like it's welcoming people to Beauvoir.

Plans to locate the statue in Richmond, Virginia fell through and a push to place it on the grounds of the state capitol in Mississippi doesn't look good. That gives Beauvoir an opportunity.

The new statue depicts Jefferson Davis with two young children. One is his son, Joe Davis. The other is a young African-American boy named Jim Limber, who was adopted by the Davis family. It's a story not widely known.

Hurricane may have uncovered Civil War shipwreck

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090310/ap_on_re_us/civil_war_shipwreck

GALVESTON, Texas – Experts know of about a dozen Civil War-era shipwrecks off the Texas coast. They might have just identified another.

Contractors searching for debris from Hurricane Ike near Galveston Island took a sonar scan of what the Texas Historical Commission believes is a previously undiscovered ship carrying cotton that sank in 1864.

Shipwreck (Continued): The Carolina, also known as the Caroline, was a privately owned merchant ship that tried to break through a federal blockade of Galveston. After being pursued for several hours by Union gunships, the crew of the Carolina ran the ship aground in shallow water between Galveston and San Luis Pass, then set it on fire rather than let it be captured.

Historians said records indicate the ship sank in the area where workers took the sonar image. It had probably been buried in sand until Hurricane Ike scoured the Gulf floor.

"It's certainly significant if it turns out to be a historic wreck, as we think it is," Steven Hoyt, state marine archaeologist with the Texas Historical Commission, told the Houston Chronicle.

Hoyt said the shape of the image indicates the wreckage is a ship, and that he will study its size, style and characteristics to determine whether it could be the Carolina. Divers will investigate the site in the spring or summer when the Gulf of Mexico waters are calmer. Even then, visibility could be limited.

The possible wreck was discovered about a month ago by General Land Office contractors hired to clean the surrounding bays of debris from Ike. Crews have located hundreds of cubic yards of underwater debris, including a shrimping boat, washing machines, refrigerators and furniture, said Jim Suydam, land office spokesman.

Crews also have found two previously charted Civil War-era shipwrecks: the Acadia and the Will-o-the-Wisp. The two ships are protected state archaeological landmarks.

State workers will not reveal the location of the new possible shipwreck to prevent looters from discovering the site.

RICHARD DREYFUSS JOINS CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST TO UNVEIL REPORT ON ENDANGERED BATTLEFIELDS

Academy Award-Winning Actor Helps Unveil Report Identifying America's Most Endangered Battlefields

March 18, 2009

For more information, contact: Jim Campi, (202) 367-1861 x205 or Mary Koik, (202) 367-1861 x231

(Washington, D.C.) A bucolic Maryland battleground threatened by a trash incinerator's unsightly 350-foot-tall smokestack; a verdant Virginia forest where Generals Lee and Grant first faced off, now jeopardized by a behemoth big-box retailer; and a charming Mississippi town spared from the torch but not from a highway are some of the nation's most endangered Civil War battlefields.

At a news conference this morning, the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) unveiled its annual report on the status of the nation's historic battlegrounds. The report, entitled *History Under Siege™: A Guide to America's Most Endangered Civil War Battlefields*, identifies the most threatened Civil War sites in the United States and what can be done to save them.

"In town after town, the irreplaceable battlefields that define those communities are being marred forever," said CWPT President James Lighthizer. "As we approach the Sesquicentennial of the bloodiest conflict in our nation's history, we need to be more aware than ever of the importance of preserving these sacred places for generations to come."

Joining Lighthizer at the news conference announcing the report was actor Richard Dreyfuss. Best known for his roles in films like *American Graffiti*, *Jaws*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, and his Academy Award-winning turn in *The Goodbye Girl*, Dreyfuss is also an avid student of history and has been involved in numerous documentary projects, including *The Great Battles of the Civil War* and *Lincoln*.

Of the growing need for historic preservation Dreyfuss said, "These hallowed battlegrounds should be national shrines, monuments to American valor, determination and courage. Once these irreplaceable treasures are gone, they're gone forever."

Also participating in the news conference was Dr. Libby O'Connell Chief Historian for History, formerly The History Channel. O'Connell developed and oversees Save Our History, the group's campaign for historic preservation and history education. "These endangered Civil War battlefields are the places where many Americans made the greatest sacrifice for their country," said O'Connell. "They must be protected".

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Endangered Battlefields (Continued): *History Under Siege™: A Guide to America's Most Endangered Civil War Battlefields* is composed of two parts. The first section presents the 10 most endangered battlefields in the nation, providing a brief description of the history and preservation status of each site. The second section briefly describes the 15 additional "at risk" sites that round out the top 25 endangered Civil War battlefields in the United States.

The sites discussed in the report range from the famous to the nearly forgotten. All share a critical feature, however—at least part of each site is in danger of being lost forever. The battlefields were chosen based on geographic location, military significance, and the immediacy of current threats.

Among the sites included in the report is Monocacy, Maryland, July 9, 1864, an engagement often called the "battle that saved Washington." Monocacy is today threatened by a planned waste-to-energy facility with a proposed 350-foot-tall smokestack, which would be visible from much of the battlefield. The \$527 million facility would process trash from Frederick and Carroll counties, burning up to 1,500 tons per day. The battle at Monocacy occurred when the Confederate Army of the Valley marched down the Shenandoah Valley and into Maryland, during the third and final Confederate invasion of the North. An impromptu force of largely inexperienced soldiers moved to block the Southerners before they could threaten Washington or Baltimore. The Confederates, outnumbering their opponents nearly three to one, outflanked and overpowered the Union troops, inflicting more than 20 percent casualties before forcing their foe to retire. Although defeated, the Union stand had bought valuable time and enabled veteran troops to reinforce Washington before the Confederates arrived at its outskirts.

The Battle of the Wilderness, Virginia, May 5-7, 1864, was among the most significant engagements of the war and marked the first time two Civil War legends — Gen. Robert E. Lee and Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant — faced each other in battle. Nearly 29,000 American soldiers were killed, wounded or captured in the horrendous, two-day struggle fought in scrub growth and among burning trees and earthworks. Today, preservationists in Orange County, Va., are facing an uphill battle to stop Walmart from building a new 138,000-square foot supercenter across Route 3 from the battlefield. There are already several other Walmart's within a 20-mile radius and, if built, the new store would ensure further commercial development in the area. Preservationists have offered to fund a comprehensive planning study that would preserve the battlefield while allowing the Orange County to meet its economic development needs.

On the morning of May 1, 1863, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's Union army had crossed the Mississippi River and was beginning its final push to capture Vicksburg. While 8,000 severely outnumbered Confederates fought savagely at Port Gibson, Mississippi, their sacrifice was in vain, and 800 of their number were killed, wounded or went missing that day. Grant lost slightly more men but secured a vital river crossing for his army, allowing him to press on to Vicksburg. Local lore has it that Union forces marching through Mississippi spared the town of Port Gibson from the torch because it was too beautiful to burn. Today the area retains its tree-lined streets and is home to a tourist industry centered on its quaint small-town charm and history. These very traits, however, are threatened by a proposal to widen U.S. Route 61, Church Street, through the heart of town. Local officials, including the mayor, are lobbying for a bypass to the east of town, which would skirt the battlefield more widely and avoid historic neighborhoods.

In addition to Monocacy, the Wilderness and Port Gibson, *History Under Siege™* includes:

Cedar Creek, Virginia, October 19, 1864: The site of a Union victory that helped propel Abraham Lincoln to reelection in 1864 is today threatened by the expansion of a limestone mining operation on core battlefield land. Heavy machinery and slag piles from existing quarries are already visible. Despite vehement opposition and the recommendation of the county planning commission, the Frederick County Board of Supervisors rezoned 394 acres, greatly increasing the size of the mine and threatening to destroy significant sections of the northern part of the battlefield. In addition, Cedar Creek is one of approximately 15 battlefields across Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia potentially impacted by a proposed network of high-voltage electric transmission lines in the eastern U.S.

Fort Gaines, Alabama, August 5-8, 1864: Despite its strategic location on Dauphin Island at the entrance to Mobile Bay and its occupation by 800 Confederate troops in August of 1864, Fort Gaines was overpowered by Union Admiral David Farragut's fleet of 18 ships. Today, the fort faces another mighty foe: the Gulf of Mexico. Recent dredging practices have significantly hastened the erosion of Dauphin Island, threatening to cut the island in two. Some 400 feet of historic battlefield have already been erased.

Endangered Battlefields (Continued):

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 1-3, 1863: The largest and bloodiest battle of the Civil War raged for three days and claimed a horrific price — more than 50,000 killed, wounded and missing. Although it is the best-known of all Civil War battlefields, Gettysburg still faces threats to its preservation and interpretation. Many historically significant locations on the battlefield lie outside the boundaries of Gettysburg National Military Park and are vulnerable to residential or commercial development. Preservationists are eager to protect one such area, known locally as the Gettysburg Country Club, but the high asking price has thus far put it out of their reach.

New Market Heights, Virginia, September 29, 1864: Outside Richmond, north of the James River, nearly 3,000 African American soldiers in Union blue were anxious to prove themselves. In a bloody but valorous attack at New Market Heights, these United States Colored Troops lost more than 800 men in one hour. Of the 16 Medals of Honor awarded to African American troops in the Civil War, 14 were earned by soldiers fighting that day. Despite its indisputable historic significance, New Market Heights is completely at the mercy of development with no land protected by preservation organizations. Some significant portions of the battlefield have already been destroyed by a housing development, and growing traffic congestion on Virginia Route 5 will ultimately necessitate the widening of the highway, threatening approximately 75-acres of still-pristine battlefield land.

Sabine Pass, Texas, September 8, 1863: Anxious to prevent a viable Confederate trade route through Mexico, President Abraham Lincoln sent a force to capture Sabine Pass and begin the occupation of Texas. The only Confederate line of defense was a few dozen artillerymen manning six cannons inside Fort Griffin. Their deadly accuracy caused one of the most lopsided victories of the war as they turned back the Union fleet and captured several hundred prisoners. The site of this struggle was closed to the public after sustaining heavy damage during Hurricane Rita in 2005 and again following Hurricane Ike in 2008.

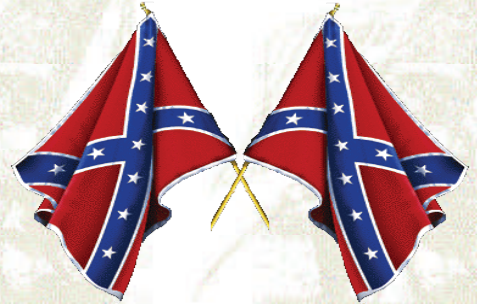
South Mountain, Maryland, September 14, 1862: In his first invasion of the North, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee famously divided his army in the face of a superior Union army under Gen. George B. McClellan. A copy of one of his orders, detailing the vulnerability of his outnumbered forces, fell into McClellan's hands and spurring his foes to confront Lee's army at South Mountain. The hopelessly outnumbered Southerners fought back savagely in defense of three gaps along South Mountain. Today, the historic battleground is threatened by a \$55 million natural gas compression station planned nearby.

Spring Hill, Tenn., November 29, 1864: Spring Hill, site of a famous missed opportunity for Confederate forces that led to a disastrous defeat in nearby Franklin, is located in Middle Tennessee, one of the nation's most rapidly growing regions. General Motors is looking to sell approximately 500 acres of unused land associated with the battlefield. Initial plans call for 400 acres of high-density development including apartments, a hotel, a theater, restaurants and retail and office space adjacent to the battlefield.

Although many battlefields are endangered, CWPT is making significant progress in the fight to preserve them. In 2008, the organization rescued approximately 1,000 acres of hallowed ground at legendary battlefields such as Champion Hill, Miss.; Bentonville, N.C.; Shiloh, Tenn.; and Brandy Station, Va. Since its creation two decades ago, CWPT has protected more than 25,000 acres at more than 100 sites in 19 states. CWPT first issued its annual report on endangered battlefields in February 2001.

With 60,000 members, CWPT is the largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization in the United States. Its mission is to preserve our nation's endangered Civil War battlefields and to promote appreciation of these hallowed grounds. CWPT's website is <http://www.civilwar.org/>.

We Dare Defend Our Rights !



To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we submit the vindication of the Cause for which we fought; to your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles he loved and which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations. Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us the undeniable birthright of our Southern Heritage and the vision, desire, and courage to see it perpetuated.

You can know a man in all his depth or shallowness by his attitude toward the Southern Banner