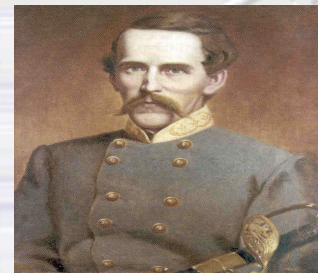


December 2009



May Everyone and Their Families Have a Very Safe and Merry Confederate Christmas and Happy New Year

"Confederate Christmas" and "Confederate Winter" by Mort Knutsler



December 2009

I Salute The Confederate Flag With Affection, Reverence, and Undying Devotion to the Cause for Which It Stands.

Commander :

Joey Smithson

1st Lieutenant Cdr :

David Allen

2nd Lieutenant Cdr :

Robert Beams

Adjutant :

Frank Delbridge

Color Sergeant :

Jarrold Farley

Chaplain :

Dr. Wiley Hales

Newsletter :

James Simms

jbsimms@comcast.net

Website :

From The Adjutant

Gen RE Rodes Camp 262 will meet Thursday night, Dec. 10th, 2009, at 7 PM at the Tuscaloosa Public Library.

Our speaker will be David Allen, who will be speaking about Confederate General Patrick Cleburne for whom counties in both Alabama and Arkansas are named. Gen. Cleburne's strategic use of terrain, his ability to hold ground where others failed, and his talent in foiling the movements of the enemy earned him fame. Union troops were quoted as dreading to see the blue flag of Cleburne's division across the battlefield from them. Killed at the Battle of Franklin, TN, he was last seen alive running towards the Union lines with his sword raised after his horse had been shot out from under him.

We will be discussing plans for the Lee-Jackson Banquet in January. Our speaker will be Dr. Richard Rhone, and Kozy's Restaurant will be catering our meals again. We hope to have the place the banquet will be held determined by the time of this meeting, and it will be held on Lee's birthday, Jan. 19th, unless we run into unforeseen problems. We are still trying to elect officers and will be discussing this at our meeting also.

Members who haven't paid their dues yet are reminded that they are now delinquent, and late fees of \$7.50 will be charged for a total of \$67.50.

Member's Confederate Ancestors having birthdays in December:

General Rodes 3
General's Birthdays 5
and Markers

Civil War Unit 5

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Pvt James A. Jenkins | 12/ 15/ 1842 | 41st AL Inf Regt | Jeff Lenahan's GGGrandfather |
| Pvt Henry J. Hallman | 12/1/1833 | Co I, 26th AL inf Regt | Clyde Biggs GGUncle |

Although not a birthday, Carlton Ryder's ancestor William Canant enlisted in McCaskill's Raiders on Dec. 25th, 1861 (Christmas Day)



Upcoming Events



10 December - Camp Meeting

2010

14 January - Camp Meeting

19 Lee-Jackson Dinner

11 February - Camp Meeting

11 March - Camp Meeting

8 April - 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, Virginus Hudson Rodes; and his parents. His wife Virginia Hortense is buried in Alabama, her home state.

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

Support Your Confederate Heritage



Alabama SCV specialty car Tag!!

Remember:

1. The SCV Specialty Tag is an OFFICIAL, LEGALLY RECOGNIZED LICENSE PLATE as established by an act of the Alabama Legislature. The Battle Flag exhibited in this manner can NOT be discriminated against or removed by any government entity, corporation, employer or person without violating the law. IMAGINE! While politicians remove our flag from public view, one at a time, we will be displaying our Flag by the thousands to the public, furthering Confederate Pride and Loyalty.
2. You may personalize this tag with up to 5 letters and/or numbers, AT NO EXTRA CHARGE. (ALDIV, ALREB, 33ALA, 5THAL, CSSAL, etc.) Ask the Tag clerk when ordering.

How to buy:

1. When your current regular tag expires, go to the County's Probate Judge's Office or County Tag Office and say, "I want to order the Specialty Car Tag of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in place of my regular car tag."
2. You may **personalize (*)** this tag with up to 5 letters / numbers. Ask the Tag clerk when ordering. **(AT no EXTRA CHARGE.)**. This cost is \$50.00 (in addition to the regular cost of an Alabama car tag), of which \$41.25 goes to the Alabama Division, SCV to promote and protect our Confederate Heritage and History. You may reserve your choice before you go by going to: <https://www.alabamainteractive.org/dorpt/UserHome.str>

Be sure to select the SCV tag!

The cost of reserving a personalized plate is \$2 and payment must be made online using either VISA or MASTERCARD. Once approved, the reservation will be valid for five business days. You will not be charged if DOR rejects your request.



Alabama United Daughters of the Confederacy available at your County Courthouse. Sponsored by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Alabama Division. This plate is available to **all supporters**. The net proceeds will be used for preservation of historic sites in Alabama, conservation of the flags of the Confederacy, and scholarship programs.

The UDC Specialty Tag is an OFFICIAL, LEGALLY RECOGNIZED LICENSE PLATE as established by an act of the Alabama Legislature. The First National exhibited in this manner can NOT be discriminated against or removed by any government entity, corporation, employer or person without violating the law. IMAGINE! While politicians remove our flag from public view, one at a time, we will be displaying our Flag by the thousands to the public, furthering Confederate Pride and Loyalty. Ask the Tag clerk when ordering.

How to buy:

When your current regular tag expires, go to the County's Probate Judge's Office or County Tag Office and say, "I want to order the Specialty Car Tag of the United Daughters of The Confederacy in place of my regular car tag."

Be sure to select the UDC tag!

Historical Markers of Tuscaloosa County

The University of Alabama

Endowed by Congress 1819. Ordained by State Constitution 1819 and established by General Assembly 1820. Instruction begun 1831. Unofficial training school for Confederate officers 1861-65. Destroyed by Federal Army April 5, 1865. Rebuilding began 1867 and reopened 1868.

Marker donated by Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity 1981.

Confederate Generals Birthdays for December

Brig. General Archibald Gracie Jr. - 1 Dec. 1832 - New York, N.Y.
 Brig. General Micah Jenkins - 1 Dec. 1835 - Edisto Island, S.C.
 Maj. General William Mahone - 1 Dec. 1826 Southampton Co., Va.
 Brig. General Rufus Barringer - 2 Dec. 1821 - Cabarrus Co., N.C.
 Brig. General Henry Alexander Wise - 3 Dec. 1806 - Accomack, Va.
 Maj. General William Wing Loring - 4 Dec. 1818 - Wilmington, N.C.
 Brig. General Henry Eustace McCulloch - 6 Dec. 1816 - Rutherford Co., Tenn.
 Brig. General Robert Bullock - 8 Dec. 1828 - Greenville, N.C.
 Brig. General Joseph Orville Shelby - 12 Dec. 1830 - Lexington, Ky.
 Brig. General Stand Watie - 12 Dec. 1806 - near present day Rome, Ga.
 Brig. General Daniel Harris Reynolds - 14 Dec. 1832 - Centerburg, Ohio
 Brig. General Allen Thomas - 14 Dec. 1830 - Howard Co., Md.
 Brig. General Robert Selden Garnett - 16 Dec. 1819 - Essex, Va.
 Brig. General Samuel Garland Jr. - 16 Dec. 1830 - Lynchburg, Va.
 Maj. General Henry Heth - 16 Dec. 1825 - Chesterfield Co., Va.

Civil War Units from Alabama

Twenty-Ninth Alabama Infantry Regiment

This regiment was organized at Pensacola in February, 1862, by the addition of two companies to the Fourth Alabama battalion - a body of eight companies, which had been organized the autumn before at Montgomery. The regiment remained at Pensacola till it was evacuated, suffering much from diseases that usually afflict raw troops.

It then lay between Pollard and Pensacola for over a year, when it was ordered to Mobile, and there remained from July 1863 to April 1864, save a short time that it was at Pollard. The regiment then joined the Army of Tennessee at Resaca, in time to initiate the Atlanta-Dalton campaign, and was brigaded with the First, Seventeenth, and Twenty-sixth of Alabama, and Thirty-seventh of Mississippi regiments, commanded at different intervals by Col. Murphey of Montgomery, Gen. O'Neal of Lauderdale, and Gen. Shelley of Talladega.

The Twenty-ninth was engaged at the battle of Resaca with a loss of about 100 killed and wounded, out of 1100 men engaged. At New Hope the loss was very heavy, and at Peach-tree Creek the regiment was cut to pieces. Again, July 28, near Atlanta, half of the regiment was killed and wounded in the fierce and protracted assault on the enemy's line.

The Twenty-ninth then moved into Tennessee with Gen. Hood, and lost very heavily in casualties at Franklin, and largely in casualties and prisoners at Nashville. A remnant of it moved into the Carolinas, and was engaged at Kinston and Bentonville with considerable loss. About 90 men surrendered at Greensboro, N.C.

Field and Staff

Colonels - J.R.F. Tatnall of Georgia; transferred to the navy. John F. Conoley of Dallas.

Lieutenant Colonels - J.F. Conoley; promoted. Benjamin Morris of Barbour.

Majors - Benj. Morris; promoted. Henry B. Turner of Talladega; wounded at Atlanta.

Adjutants - Lemuel D. Hatch of Greene; transferred. Benj. H. Screws of Barbour; transferred to line. James Stephenson of Virginia.

(Continued Next Page)

Civil War Units (Continued):

Captains, and Counties from Which the Companies Came.

Talladega - Henry B. Turner; promoted. E. Orear; wounded at Resaca; killed at Franklin.

Blount - Duncan Dew; wounded at Atlanta.

Blount - Wm. H. Musgrove; died in the service. John M. Hanna; killed at Atlanta.

Bibb - Alfred V. Gardner; wounded at Resaca and Franklin.

Shelby - Samuel Abernethy.

Blount - B.F. Sapp; died in service. T.J. Smitherman.

Barbour - John F. Wagon; resigned. John A. Forster; wounded at Resaca; captured at Nashville.

Bibb - Hugh Latham; died in the service. Berry G. Brown; killed at Nashville.

Conecuh - J.B. Sowell; died in the service. Ulee W. Mills; killed at Atlanta. John B. Allen; killed at Franklin.

Barbour - John C. McNab; resigned. J.C. Hailey; killed at Atlanta. Benjamin H. Screws; wounded at Atlanta.

Thirtieth Alabama

The Thirtieth was organized at Talladega April 16, 1862, and reported for duty at once to Chattanooga. Sent further into east Tennessee, it was brigaded under Gen. Reynolds of Tennessee, then under Gen. Stevenson. The regiment skirmished at Tazewell and Cumberland Gap, and moved into Kentucky, but was not engaged. On the return to Tennessee, the Thirtieth was brigaded with the Twentieth, Twenty-third, Thirty-first, and Forty-sixth Alabama, under Gen. Tracy of Madison, and in December was sent to Vicksburg with the other portions of Stevenson's division.

In the spring the regiment fought with few casualties at Port Gibson, but was bathed in blood at Baker's Creek, where it lost 229 men killed, wounded, and missing - half of its number - and had four ensigns killed, and its colors rent by 63 balls and 16 shell fragments. Pent up in Vicksburg, the Thirtieth suffered severely in casualties during the siege, and was captured with the fortress. Paroled, the regiment recruited at DEMPOLIS, and proceeded, with other portions of the brigade - now under Gen. Pettus of Dallas - to the main army near Chattanooga. The regiment was engaged without loss at Mission Ridge, and wintered at Dalton.

At Rocky-face the Thirtieth suffered severely, and lightly at Resaca. From there to Atlanta its tattered colors floated at the front of the fire-tried Army of Tennessee, the regiment losing heavily at New Hope, Atlanta, and Jonesboro. Proceeding into Tennessee, the Thirtieth was cut up at Nashville, but was part of the rear guard back to Duck River.

Transferred to North Carolina, the regiment fought at Kinston and Bentonville, suffering severely in casualties. With the army the Thirtieth surrendered at Greensboro, North Carolina, about 100 men being present for duty.

Field and Staff

Colonels - Charles M. Shelley of Talladega; promoted. James K. Elliot of Talladega; wounded at Bentonville.

Lieutenant Colonels - Taul Bradford of Talladega; resigned. A.J. Smith of Jefferson; killed at Vicksburg. John C. Francis of Calhoun; killed at Rocky-face. Thomas Patterson of Talladega; killed at Atlanta. James K. Elliot; promoted. Wm. H. Burr of St. Clair.

Majors - A.J. Smith; promoted. William Patterson of Talladega; wounded at Baker's Creek; resigned. John C. Francis; promoted. Thomas Patterson; promoted. James K. Elliot; promoted. Wm. H. Burr; promoted.

Adjutant - Wm. W. Houston of Talladega; wounded at Baker's Creek.

Captains, and Counties from Which the Companies Came.

Shelby - C.G. Samuels; resigned. B.F. Samuels; resigned.

Shelby and Jefferson - Deshazo; resigned. J.M. Acton.

Talladega - Wm. Patterson; promoted. Henry Oden; killed at Vicksburg. Peacock; killed at Bentonville.

Talladega - David Anderson; killed at Baker's Creek. D. C. McCain.

Talladega - John Sawyer; resigned. James K. Elliot; wounded at Rocky-face; promoted. W.T. Webb.

Calhoun - John C. Francis; promoted. McCain.

Calhoun - Henry McBee; resigned. Samuel Kelly.

St. Clair - E.P. Woodward; resigned. Wm. H. Burr; wounded; promoted.

Talladega - Thomas Patterson; wounded at Port Gibson; promoted. Wm. S. McGhee; killed at Atlanta.

Randolph - Jack Derrett; killed near Atlanta. Lieutenant Stephens commanded.



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.

"A People Without Pride in Their Heritage, Is a Nation Without Purpose." - Walter E. Dockery

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

Deo Vindice