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Joey Smithson

1st Lieutenant Cdr:

David Allen

2nd Lieutenant Cdr:

Robert Beams

Adjutant :

Frank Delbridge

Color Sergeant :

Jarrold Farley

Chaplain :

Dr. Wiley Hales

Newsletter :

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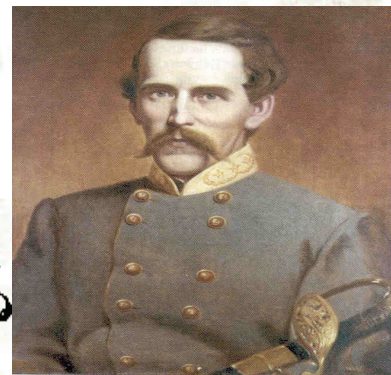
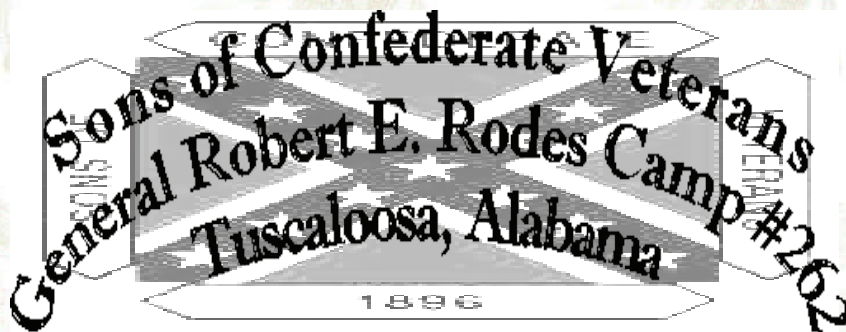
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February 2009



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

Notes From The Adjutant

Gen. RE Rodes Camp 262, SCV, will meet at 7 PM Thursday night February 12th, 2009, at the Tuscaloosa Public Library. David Allen will be showing a video presentation done by John Weaver, Past Chaplain -in-Chief of the SCV, on the story of Sam Davis, legendary boy hero of the Confederacy.

We will be discussing the Lee-Jackson Banquet to see how the membership felt about holding it at the McAbee Activity Center. We will also be discussing preliminary plans for Confederate Memorial Day this April, possibly staging a ceremony in Greenwood cemetery to honor the unknown Confederate soldiers buried there, and Capt. Eddins, Gen's Roddy and Johnston, and nurse Sally Swope. We are thinking maybe something along the lines of the Vance ceremony. Also, we need to discuss the possibility of increasing our Camp dues next year.

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.

Birthdays of Our Confederate Ancestors

Pvt Robert J. Wyatt, Co D, 2nd Al Cav Regt, born 2/14 1838, Walter Wyatt Jr.'s GreatGrandfather

Pvt William Canant, 3rd Al Cav Regt, born 2/17/1843, Carlton Ryder's GUncle

Pvt William L. Ramsey, Co G, 41st AL Inf, born 2/13/1819 Frank Delbridge's



Upcoming Events



- | | |
|---|--|
| 12 February - Camp Meeting | 11 June - Camp Meeting |
| 12 March - Camp Meeting | 9 July - Camp Meeting "Show and Tell" TBD |
| 13-15 March - Gainesville Reenactment | August - <u>Summer Stand Down and Bivouac</u> Camp Meeting |
| 4 April - J.C.C. Sanders Lecture | 10 September-Camp Meeting |
| 9 April - Camp Meeting | 15 October- Camp Meeting |
| Late April / Early May- Confederate Memorial Day - Time & Place - TBD | |
| 14 May - Camp Meeting | |
| 22-24 May - Tannehill Reenactment | |

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 in Spring Hill Cemetery next to his wife Virginia at Lynchburg, Virginia.

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

Historical Markers of Tuscaloosa County

Skirmish at Trion

On 31 March 1865, Union Brig. Gen. John T. Croxton's Cavalry of some 1500 troops entered Tuscaloosa County with orders to destroy the State University (military school) and anything else of value to the rebel cause. Near Bucksville they destroyed Saunders Iron Works and William's Tannery (now Tannehill State Park). Learning that Confederate cavalry units under Gen. Nathan B. Forrest and Brig. Gen. W.H. (Red) Jackson were traveling near Trion, some 10-miles distant, Croxton's Brigade rode to intercept. The Union forces camped that night on the farm of Squire John White, and were attacked by Jackson's Cavalry Division as they broke camp at daybreak, 1 April. The skirmish, the first in Tuscaloosa County, occurred about a half-mile south of present-day Vance.

Union losses were heavy in the running fight: some 30 killed or wounded, another 30 captured, and 150 horses lost. Croxton was forced away from his original line of march, retreating to the northeast before turning west towards the Black Warrior River some 40 miles above Tuscaloosa. Crossing to the west bank at Johnson's Ferry or Black Rock Shoals (near old Lock 17 area), the Union raiders resumed their advance on Northport and Tuscaloosa on 3 April. Jackson's Confederate forces suffered several casualties in the skirmish. One soldier from Tennessee, who died several days later in the Squire John White home, was buried nearby by Trion-area citizens.

Confederate Generals Birthdays for February

General Albert Sidney Johnston - 2 Feb. 1803 - Madison Co., Ky.
 General Joseph Eggleston Johnston - 3 Feb. 1807 - Farmville, Va.
 General George Washington - 22 Feb. 1732 - Westmoreland Co., Va.
 Lt. General Richard Stoddert Ewell - 8 Feb. 1817 - Georgetown, D.C.
 Maj. General James Patton Anderson - 16 Feb. 1822 - Franklin Co., Tenn.
 Maj. General Joseph Reid Anderson - 16 Feb. 1813 - Botetourt Co., Va.
 Maj. General Jeremy Francis Gilmer - 23 Feb. 1818 - Guilford Co., N.C.
 Maj. General John Brown Gordon - 6 Feb. 1832 - Upson Co., Ga.
 Maj. General William Dorsey Pender - 6 Feb. 1834 - Edgecombe Co., N.C.
 Maj. General Camille Armand Jules Marie Prince de Polignac - 16 Feb. 1832 - Milliemont, Seine-et-Oise, France
 Maj. General Robert Ransom Jr. - 12 Feb. 1828 - Warren Co., N.C.
 Maj. General James Ewell Brown Stuart - 6 Feb. 1833 - Patrick Co., Va.
 Brig. General George Thomas "Tige" Anderson - 3 Feb. 1824 - Covington, Ga.
 Brig. General Samuel Read Anderson - 17 Feb. 1804 - Bedford Co., Va.
 Brig. General Lewis Addison Armistead - 18 Feb. 1817 - New Bern, N.C.
 Brig. General Barnard Elliott Bee - 8 Feb. 1824 - Charleston, S.C.
 Brig. General Robert Hall Chilton - 25 Feb. 1815 - Loudoun Co., Va.
Brig. General James Deshler - 18 Feb. 1833 - Tuscumbia, Ala.
 Brig. General Matthew Duncan Ector - 28 Feb. 1822 - Putman Co., Ga.
 Brig. General Clement Anselm Evans - 25 Feb. 1833 - Stewart Co., Ga.
 Brig. General Nathan George Evans - 3 Feb. 1824 - Marion, S.C.
 Brig. General Johnson Hagood - 21 Feb. 1829 - Barnwell Co., S.C.
 Brig. General John Daniel Imboden - 16 Feb. 1823 - Staunton, Va.
 Brig. General Alfred Iverson Jr. - 14 Feb. 1829 - Clinton, Ga.
 Brig. General John King Jackson - 8 Feb. 1828 - Augusta, Ga.
 Brig. General William Lowther "Mudwall" Jackson - 3 Feb. 1825 - Clarksburg, Va.
 Brig. General Adam Rankin Johnson - 8 Feb. 1834 - Henderson, Ky.
 Brig. General Walter Payne Lane - 18 Feb. 1817 - County Cork, Ireland
 Brig. General Hylan Benton Lyon - 22 Feb. 1836 - Caldwell, Ky.
 Brig. General James Green Martin - 14 Feb. 1819 - Elizabeth City, N.C.
 Brig. General John Creed Moore - 28 Feb. 1824 - Redbridge, Hawkins Co., Tenn.
 Brig. General Jean Jacques Alfred Alexander Mouton - 18 Feb. 1829 - Opelousas, La.
 Brig. General Abner Monroe Perrin - 2 Feb. 1827 - Edgefield Dist., S.C.

(Continued Next Page)

Confederate Generals Birthdays (Continued)

Brig. General William Read Scurry - 10 Feb. 1821 - Gallatin, Tenn.
 Brig. General Thomas Benton Smith - 24 Feb. 1838 - Mechanicsville, Tenn.
 Brig. General Gilbert Moxley Sorrell - 23 Feb. 1838 - Savannah, Ga.
 Brig. General James Barbour Terrill - 20 Feb. 1838 - Bath Co., Va.
 Brig. General John Crawford Vaughn - 24 Feb. 1824 - Roane Co., Tenn.
Brig. General Leroy Pope Walker - 7 Feb. 1817 - Huntsville, Ala.
 Brig. General John Henry Winder - 21 Feb. 1800 - Somerset Co., Md.

Civil War Units from Alabama

**Nineteenth Alabama
 Infantry Regiment**

The Nineteenth was organized at Huntsville, August 14, 1861, and at once ordered to Mobile. It remained there about three months, then was at Pensacola a fortnight. Ordered to Corinth, the regiment was brigaded under General Gladden of Louisiana, with the Twenty-second, Twenty-fifth, and Twenty-sixth Alabama regiments, to which the Thirty-ninth was added after the battle of Shiloh.

In that battle the Nineteenth received its appalling baptism of blood, losing 110 killed and 240 wounded of the 650 that followed its colors into the action. Gen. Frank Gardner soon after succeeded to the command of the brigade, and led it into Kentucky, where it did not come in collision with the foe. It retired with the army, and fought at Murfreesboro with a loss of about one hundred killed and wounded, about one-fourth of its strength. Gen. Deas of Mobile succeeded to the command of the brigade, and led it at Chicamauga, where it again lost very heavily. The casualties were few at Mission Ridge, and the Nineteenth wintered at Dalton.

In the almost cessant battle from that place to Atlanta, the regiment lost largely in casualties, particularly at New Hope and near Marietta. The brigade being under Gen. Johnston of Perry, the Nineteenth was badly cut up in the battles of July 22 and 28 at Atlanta. It suffered lightly at Jonesboro, but having followed Gen. Hood into Tennessee, the Nineteenth lost severely in prisoners at Franklin, with few casualties.

It went to North Carolina, and was engaged at Kinston and Bentonville, losing largely in the latter battle. Consolidated with the Fortieth and the Forty-sixth Alabama regiments at Salisbury (with M.L. Woods of Montgomery as colonel, and Ezekiel Gully of Sumter as lieutenant colonel), the Nineteenth surrendered at that place, 76 strong.

Field and Staff

Colonels - Joseph Wheeler of Georgia; promoted. Samuel K. McSpadden of Cherokee; captured at Resaca.
 Lieutenant Colonels - Edw. D. Tracy of Madison; promoted to brigadier general. Geo. R. Kimbrough of Pickens.
 Majors - Samuel K. McSpadden; promoted. George R. Kimbrough; promoted. Solomon Palmer of Blount.
 Adjutants - Clifton Walker of Madison; wounded at Shiloh; transferred to Gen. Tracy's staff. C.G. Hale; wounded at Murfreesboro.

Captains, and Counties from Which the Companies Came.

Pickens - George R. Kimbrough; promoted. R.J. Healy; killed at Murfreesboro. Dyer C. Hodo; wounded at Atlanta.
 Blount - Wm. D. McKenzie; killed at Corinth. H.L. Houston; killed at Atlanta.
 Jefferson - Wm. F. Hamby; wounded at Shiloh. Lieut. Rouse commanded.
 Cherokee - Wm. P. Hollingsworth; transferred to General Tracy's staff. Ed. Thornton; killed at Jonesboro.
 Cherokee - Rufus B. Rhea; wounded at Chicamauga.
 Cherokee - Wm. E. Kirkpatrick; resigned. Marvel Israel; wounded at Chicamauga; retired. Thomas B. Williamson; wounded at Atlanta.
 Cherokee - Jackson Millsap; resigned. John N. Barry; retired. James H. Leath; wounded at Atlanta.
 Cherokee - J.L. Cunningham; transferred to Gen. Tracy's staff. Samuel B. Echols.
 Cherokee - James H. Savage.
 Blunt - J.H. Skinner; resigned. Solomon Palmer; promoted. Nathan J. Venable; killed at Marietta. Jas. K. Duffie.

Council votes to rename street

By Katie Nichols Times-Journal managing editor George L. Jones contributed to this report. Selma Times-Journal
Published Tuesday, January 13, 2009



The Rev. Franklin Fortier speaks to the Selma City Council in favor of renaming Jeff Davis Ave. to J.L. Chestnut Jr. Blvd. The motion passed at Tuesday's council meeting.

Photo by Katie Nichols

The Rev. Franklin Fortier addressed the council prior to the vote and provided them with copies of the formal request and petition for the name change.

The Selma City Council finally decided on a point of contention for several months and honored a late civil rights leader Tuesday night.

The council voted 6-3 to change Jeff Davis Avenue to J.L. Chestnut Jr. Boulevard.

"After the last council meeting the family of attorney J.L. Chestnut was really disheartened with the mandatory process," he said. "We feel it is important to show we have gone beyond what is required by the city for the process."

Chestnut, who died in September, defended prominent figures in the Civil Rights Movement, including the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. He was the first black attorney in Selma.

Ward 6 Councilman Benny L. Tucker motioned for a 1.4-mile portion of Jeff Davis Avenue to be renamed after Chestnut.

Ward 4 Councilwoman Angela Benjamin amended the motion to include the entirety of Jeff Davis Avenue — from Hamilton Street to the railroad tracks near Buckeye Avenue — a span of nearly two miles.

Tucker accepted the amendment, and Ward 8 Councilman Corey D. Bowie seconded the motion.

Council members Cecil Williamson, Susan Keith and Monica Newton voted against the name change.

A gathering of supporters in the council chambers cheered the decision.

Council President Geraldine Allen said her vote for the name change showed support for the desires of those constituents affected.

"Although I go through process and procedure, I decided to support the two councilmen affected by this," she said. "When councilmen Tucker and Bowie recommended this, I agreed because they voiced this is what their wards wanted."

Bowie was glad he could deliver what his ward residents had asked.

"I voted yes because I canvassed my ward, and most were in favor of the name change," he said. "As council members, we try to cater to our ward's needs and wants."

Williamson expressed dissatisfaction about the manner in which the vote was handled.

"If people who wanted to rename this street were interested as much in keeping jobs, then you would not have the problems with Bush Hog right now," he said. "The procedure does not matter if you have six votes or the majority. You can just overrun people then."

Fortier was one leader of a group — including Chestnut's former law partners Rose Sanders and Collins Pet-taway Jr. — that sought recognition for the attorney just weeks after his death. All three initially asked that the Dallas County Courthouse be named after Chestnut.

Fortier said this was also a spiritual victory for the city.

"I think every citizen of Selma and every person of good will should appreciate what happened tonight," Fortier said.

Black Southerner marching to D.C., seeks respect for Confederate flag

http://www.dailyprogress.com/cdp/news/local/article/black_southerner_marching_to_d.c._seeks_respect_for_confederate_flag/34271/

Charlottesville, VA Daily Progress By Bryan McKenzie Published: January 17, 2009

The Confederate battle flag billowed, flapped and fluttered in Friday's cold wind as H.K. Edgerton led his one-man march up U.S. 29 to Washington in hopes of gaining a little respect.

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Black Southerner (Continued) Edgerton, 65, a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, is marching from his Black Mountain, N.C., home to ask President-elect Barack Obama to extend an olive branch to traditional Southerners. His improbable journey for an unlikely cause seeks what may be the politically impossible: official U.S. government recognition of the Confederate battle flag as a symbol of Southern heritage.



The Daily Progress/Andrew Shurtleff
H.K. Edgerton, a black member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, marches along U.S. 29

What makes Edgerton different than most advocates for his cause is that he's black.

"I'm an African-American and I'm a Southerner and I believe my heritage, which is represented by the flag bearing the Christian Cross of St. Andrew, is being ignored and destroyed. It's continuing to divide the black folks and the white folks who have a lot in common," Edgerton said, stopping his forward march for a hot beverage at the Dunkin' Donuts just north of Fray's Mill Road.

"Mr. Obama said he is about unity and bringing this nation together. If he is truly a man of unity, I hope he will consider showing the South-

erner that [the Southerner] is an important part of this country," he said.

Edgerton offers advice on how that can be accomplished.

"He could have a Confederate color guard at the White House," he said. "He could give the Confederate flag a respected place as part of the history and heritage of this country."

That is unlikely to happen. The flag has become a magnet for racial division. Racists and white supremacy groups wave the flag to represent their cause and civil rights leaders point to the flag as a symbol of repression and slavery.

Edgerton insists that's wrong.

"It does not represent slavery, although slavery was a fact of life. The flag represents a heritage, a way of life that my forebears had. It represents the men and the families that lived together and fought together to preserve their country from invasion," Edgerton said. "My family volunteered for the Confederacy and fought side-by-side with white Southerners and Indian Southerners. They are all my family."

A former president of the Asheville, N.C., National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Edgerton has been a colorful and controversial figure. Civil rights advocates dismiss him as a tool of racists and "neo-Confederates" while Southern traditionalists have readily accepted him.

Opponents scoff at his apparent acceptance of life under slavery. Southern traditionalists note that recent Civil War research has proven his point about black soldiers fighting for the Confederacy.

One thing Edgerton has done is put his feet behind his words. He's walked to Washington to meet President George W. Bush on the same topic. He's walked to Texas. He protested at NASCAR events when racing officials expressed a desire to move away from the sport's rural Southern heritage and the Confederate battle flags that often fly in the stands and infield.

He's also active in a legal organization that has sued school districts for expelling students who wore T-shirts featuring the battle flag or other Confederate symbols.

Edgerton seems sincere. His piercing eyes hold a gaze, daring one to doubt. He drives home points with his hands. His voice rises and falls in cadence. He speaks with passion about his family, the relationship between whites and blacks in the South and the resulting harshness of occupation that followed the Civil War.

Research in the past decade has turned up information on regiments of black soldiers serving the South, most volunteer.

"I am Southerner. This flag is not about slavery, it's about family and God and country. I have more in common with fellow Southerners like George Wallace than I do with [the Rev.] Al Sharpton," Edgerton said. "I'm from the South. I'm of the South and my family is Southern, be they white, red, black or yellow. We share a heritage and a way of life."

A divisive flag makes it to D.C.

by Bryan McKenzie Published: January 31, 2009

Apparently they weren't expecting a black man in a Confederate uniform to carry the Confederate battle flag into the Union's capital.

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(Black Southerner (Continued))

H.K. Edgerton, who marched through Charlottesville on Jan. 16 on his way to seek a parlay with President Barack Obama, entered the capital Jan. 22 and drew a bit of a crowd.



H.K. Edgerton poses with passersby as he carries the Confederate battle flag outside the White House in Washington.

Courtesy H.K. Edgerton

“We came down to Georgetown and the people started paying attention,” Mr. Edgerton said. “People were taking a lot of pictures as we walked to the White House. The police stopped me and asked a lot of questions. They figured I wasn’t a threat and told me to have a nice day, but be careful. ‘You’re carrying a Confederate flag,’ they said. I said that I knew that. I put it on that morning.”

A long walk

Mr. Edgerton took his flag and some friends on the walk in hopes of raising awareness of Confederate heritage, the role that blacks played in the formation of the South, the role they played in defending the Confederacy and their homes during the Civil War and the importance of Southern culture.

He wrapped all of those goals into one: He wants the battle flag recognized as a symbol of culture rather than racism. It’s a goal he shares with many.

“I’m with H.K.: The flag is not about hatred, but about a way of life, a culture that blacks and whites who grew up in the South share,” said John Ledingham, quartermaster of the Garland-Rodes Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in Lynchburg. Mr. Ledingham and the Lynchburg camp supported Mr. Edgerton’s effort with funding and logistical help.

“Our hope is that by officially making the flag a symbol of heritage, it will take it away from the hate groups as an effective symbol and give it back to the people whose ancestors served bravely beneath it,” Mr. Ledingham said.

“It attracts a lot of attention. I’ve been carrying this flag for a long time and a lot of miles and I’m used to it,” Mr. Edgerton said. “I’d get about 19 positive responses for what I was trying to do and one person who’d say I was crazy. Of course, it’s the crazy that always gets reported.”

Speaking on the South

Some who met Mr. Edgerton heard the message. Some did not.

“I met with a lot of black people who asked a lot of questions and I’m very proud that they were very understanding. There were some who wouldn’t listen and I appreciate that,” he said. “I handed my letter to the president to the guard at the [White House] gate and gave a short speech to some people who were there and answered questions.”

The president, Mr. Edgerton noted, was unable to meet with him. Random people, however, took up the slack.

“I listened to a young black man espouse to a rather large gathering of citizens who were busily taking pictures that they should respect any man who ‘is brave enough to come [to Washington] carrying the Confederate battle flag. By doing so at a time when we have a president of color embracing the likes of Abraham Lincoln, he is putting his life on the line and deserves high praise whether he is from the South or North.’”

Mr. Edgerton’s march, and the experiences along the way, have left him hopeful.

“I met a lot of people and talked to a lot of people and I’ve been very pleasantly surprised by the positive response I’ve received, especially from people in the North,” he said. “It’s a long road, but there’s hope.”

Confederate Gen. Lee gets his holiday in Alabama

By PHILLIP RAWLS Associated Press Writer Published: Monday, January 19, 2009

About 30 people gathered at the Confederate Monument on the state Capitol grounds Monday to mark the part of Alabama’s dual state holiday that attracts the smallest crowds and least attention.

The group came to honor Confederate General Robert E. Lee. The third Monday in January was a state holiday recognizing Lee long before the Legislature made it a dual holiday also honoring civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

The event, organized by the Alabama Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, began about an hour after more than 1,500 people marched to the Capitol steps to remember King. Robert Reames of Birmingham, state commander for the Sons of Confederate Veterans, said it’s a mistake to describe Lee as merely “a great American.”

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Robert E. Lee (Continued) "He was the greatest American and perhaps the greatest man that our race has ever produced," Reames told the small group.



Philip Davis, Robert Reames and Bill Anthony, members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, pause to pray at the Confederate Monument on the state Capitol grounds, Monday, Jan. 19, 2009, in Montgomery, Ala. About 30 people gathered at the Confederate Monument to remember Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee on a state holiday in his honor. Monday is also the national holiday honoring civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. (AP Photo/Jamie Martin)

Retired railroad worker Bill Anthony of Tallassee wore a gray Confederate uniform to the event and complained that Lee gets overlooked with Alabama's dual holiday.

"Political correctness has overruled the fact it's a joint holiday," he said.

State Rep. Alvin Holmes, who organized the King march, said there is no overlap between the people who attend the two events, but there is never any trouble.

Holmes, D-Montgomery, said people have grown accustomed to the joint holiday and back-to-back events at the Capitol because the two men's birthdays were so close - King on Jan. 15 and Lee on Jan. 19.

"Nobody can control what day they were born on," he said.

New Round of Confederate disputes hits statehouses

By SHELIA BYRD Associated Press Writer Published: Friday, February 6, 2009 at 2:57 p.m.



A statue of the late Gov. Theodore Gilmore Bilbo stands out from the back of a first floor conference room at the Capitol in Jackson, Miss., in a Jan. 22, 2009 photo. Bilbo, long known for his support of education, political and economic reforms, was also known for his racially inflammatory statements, and his statue, which used to grace the bottom of the Capitol's rotunda, now resides in a conference room. The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Confederate President Jefferson Davis, branded a traitor in his own country, is memorialized at statehouses across the South. But not in Mississippi, where he lived out his remaining days.

A bill to accept a statue of Davis from the Sons of Confederate Veterans is now the latest skirmish in the long battle over

Confederate history, often fought on Southern Capitol lawns and rotundas.

This round takes on a new twist with the election of President Barack Obama, the nation's first black commander in chief.

"If there ever was a time it would be untimely and inappropriate, it would be now," said Mississippi Rep. Robert Johnson, a black Democrat from the historic river city of Natchez.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans has been shopping for a home for the Davis statue for over a year. It was first offered to a Civil War history center in Richmond, Va., the former capital of the Confederacy. But the Confederate group later rescinded because the center wasn't sure where the statue would be placed.

The statue depicts Davis holding the hands of two children — his son and a black slave who was adopted by the Davis family

Mississippi is one of only a few Southern states that doesn't have a statue of Davis somewhere on Statehouse grounds, said Larry McCluney of Greenwood, a division commander for the Confederate group.

(Continued Next Page)

Disputes (Continued) An Army soldier who fought in the Mexican War, Davis went on to serve as a U.S. senator from Mississippi and played a role in what would become the Smithsonian Institute before he was named president of the seceding states that would become the Confederacy.

"He's overlooked and misunderstood because of the four years of the Confederacy," McCluney said.

A fellow Democratic lawmaker from Natchez, Sen. Bob Dearing, who is white, introduced the legislation and said he didn't consider it controversial.

The chances of the statue finding a home at the Mississippi Capitol are slim. The Senate passed a version of the statue bill that would restore a Confederate monument that already exists at the Old State Capitol, now a museum.

The original proposal could have resulted in Davis' statue standing near the spot once occupied by a bronze figure of Theodore Bilbo, an unabashed racist governor whose political career was mired in scandal.

Decades ago, Bilbo was a centerpiece in the Capitol's rotunda. Now it stands in a first-floor committee room where the Legislative Black Caucus often meets. The former U.S. senator's outstretched arm is occasionally used as a coat and hat rack.

"There's a poetic irony in keeping him in that committee room," Johnson said. "The person who would be most upset about Mississippi having the largest delegation of African-American legislators in the country has to sit and watch as we talk about policy."

Other Southern states will again see legislation this year proposing to remove symbols of their segregated pasts.

In South Carolina, a statue on the Statehouse grounds of Ben "Pitchfork" Tillman — an 1890s governor who was proud of the terror he inflicted lynching blacks — has been targeted by lawmakers. State Rep. Todd Rutherford believes the nation can't move forward with constant reminders of the past and plans to introduce a bill to remove Tillman's statue. A similar bill died last year.

"Do I think it stands a chance this year? I doubt it, but it's not going to stop me. I don't feel that most people in the General Assembly feel this new era of change is going to come about," said Rutherford, a black Democrat from Columbia.

At the Georgia Statehouse, there's a statue of Eugene Talmadge, a three-term Georgia governor whose 1930s and 1940s politics was a mix of racism and pocketbook populism.

Martin Luther King's portrait hangs inside the Capitol, but black Georgia lawmakers are urging the Legislature to hang pictures of other civil rights activists like Rosa Parks.

"I'm not opposed to showcasing our history, but let's be holistic. Let's be inclusive," said state Rep. Tyrone Brooks, a black Democrat who introduced the legislation for additional portraits.

Brooks said visitors to Georgia's Capitol find an "overabundance" of Confederate history and post-Reconstruction and Dixiecrat eras.

"I think America in general is trying to find a way to heal the wounds of the racial divide, but in some of the Deep South states, these states want to go in the opposite direction," Brooks said.

Group wants to light Confederate flag during Super Bowl week

<http://www.myfoxtampabay.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=8302320&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

Created: Friday, 23 Jan 2009, 3:23 PM EST



TAMPA – The massive Confederate flag that flies over the intersection of Interstate 4 and Interstate 75 has been raised again after coming down for repairs.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans took it down to fix wind damage.

They say they hope to have it lit up during Super Bowl week, but they say the lights are not installed yet.

The NFL said whether the flag is up during Super Bowl week or not is a private matter.

"The NFL does not have jurisdiction on what private groups or citizens say on private property," said NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy.

(Continued Next Page)

Flag (Continued) The Sons of Confederate Veterans hoisted the flag in June. They say it is the largest flag in the world, and they raised it as a symbol of pride for their heritage and history.

Others, though, view it as a symbol of racism, and an eyesore at the gateway to Tampa from south Florida and the east coast.

Confederate License plate

Posted: 8:49 PM Jan 19, 2009

WJHG-TV Ch.7 Panama City, FL

Reporter: Whitney Ray <http://www.wjhg.com/home/headlines/37836764.html>

This may be a day to celebrate civil rights, but a group pushing a confederate license plate in Florida says it has been discriminated against by the state. The Sons of Confederate Veterans plans to file a lawsuit against the state Tuesday. Because they say the state ignored the group's efforts to display their heritage on their vehicles.

Eight years ago the stars and bars of the confederacy flew at the state capitol. The flag was quietly removed in 2001. In 2005 the Sons of Confederate Veterans collected signatures and paid a 60 thousand dollar fee for the creation of official confederate license plates.

Bob Hurst is a spokesman for the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

"We met all the requirements. We started this effort about three years ago. We raised 60,000 dollars for an application fee that we file with the state."

Despite paying the fee and filing the proper paperwork the legislature never took on the group's issue.

Hurst says the pro plate group is suing, asking lawmakers to vote on the legislation.

"Why do you think they don't like the idea? Because we (are) politically incorrect and most of our legislators are pretty spineless."

State Senator Al Lawson says the plate promotes hatred.

"Because of what happened to African Americans in this country it's really significant that they really don't do that at this time."

Students marching in a Martin Luther King Rally say the flag is a symbol of racism, but the plate legislation should be heard anyway.

"Everybody has their own beliefs. I may not believe in it. The next person might not believe in it, but if that's what you believe and that's what's you like, then I say go for it even though I don't like it personally."

If the Confederate group can't get the legislature to approve their plate, they say lawmakers should be removed from the process.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans say their not racist. The group says it's devoted to preserving the history of their ancestors who fought in the civil war and claim having their own license plate would help them do that.

Texas heritage group recognizes Confederate Heroes Day

1/17/2009 4:17 PM By: News 8 Austin Staff

http://www.news8austin.com/content/your_news/default.asp?ArID=229426

Saturday was Confederate Heroes Day and in order to commemorate the day, the Sons of Confederate Veterans held a memorial service on the south lawn of the Capitol.

Confederate Heroes' Day commemorates those who died fighting for the Confederate States of America during the American Civil War. It's an official state holiday in Texas and the day has fallen annually on January 19—the birthday of Robert E. Lee—since its approval on January 30, 1931.

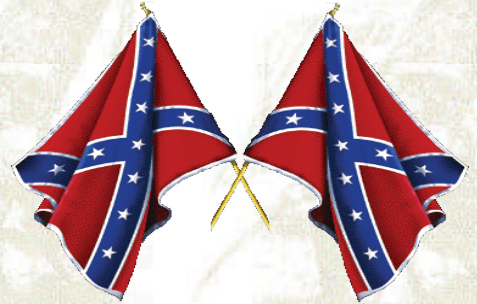
The Sons of Confederate Veterans dressed up in Confederate uniforms, and carried the various flags of the Confederacy. They also held a remembrance of General Robert E. Lee.

Organizers say it's an important holiday to all Texans.

"It's important because it's important that we remember our heritage and our Confederate forefathers – the people who made a lot of Texas what it is today through their efforts both during and after the war," Shelby Little with Sons of Confederate Veterans said.

Participants in the memorial service also read the name and company of their ancestors.

We Dare Defend Our Rights !



Mr. Denver Ragland, a former member of the Robert E. Rodes Camp; passed away on January 20th. Mr. Denver Ragland was quite involved with the Rodes camp back in the day. I think he did a lot of work as a genealogist. And will be buried at the Friendship Baptist Church in Pondville on Friday (the 23rd) at one-thirty.

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