

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

H) 556-8599 C) 792-

1840

jbsimms@comcast.net

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE

General Rodes 2

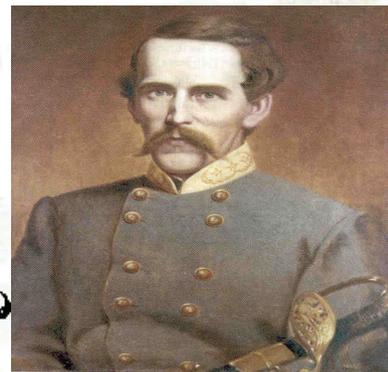
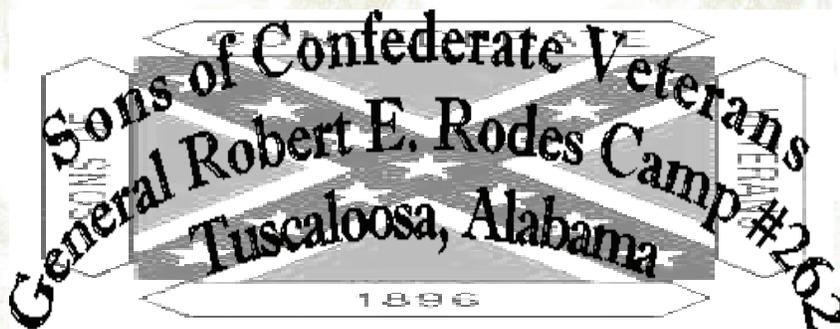
Reservation Form 3  
and Ballot

Historical Marker 4  
and Birthdays

Alabama Unit of 5  
the Month

Dixie Tag Firing 6

The Wilderness 7  
and Wal-Mart



JANUARY 2009



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

## Adjutant's Notes

Our next meeting will be January 8th, 2009, at 7 PM in the Tuscaloosa Public Library. Our speaker will be Mr. David Williams from Columbiana, AL. Some of our Camp's old-timers may remember Mr. Williams, who last spoke to us about 10 years ago. This is one talk your family would enjoy also, bring them along too.

Your Camp leaders decided not to have the Lee-Jackson Banquet at the Tuscaloosa Country Club, due to an increase in the cost per plate they would charge us. Their price increase meant it would cost him \$48 if a member brought his wife to the Banquet, and the cost to the Camp would have been around \$800.

We have arranged to have the Banquet at the McAbee Activity Center at the Veterans Hospital complex.

It will be catered, and the cost per plate will be around \$16. Details are still being worked out, but we think we will be able to have a choice of beef or chicken for the main entree.

Our speaker will be Past AL Division Commander Ronnie Simmons. A reservation form is in the newsletter, please fill it out and bring it to the meeting with you, or mail it to the Camp at the address shown. We must have your reservation NLT January 12th so we can advise the caterer how many meals to prepare.

Also, we need your votes for Compatriot of the Year for 2008. A form is in the newsletter, and again, you can bring it to the meeting or mail it in, just so we get it NLT January 12th.

### Confederate Ancestors having Birth Dates in January:

Pvt Richard C. Bonds Co C, 24th AL Inf Regt Jan. 17th, 1845 James Bonds GGrandfather

## Upcoming Events

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 8 January - Camp Meeting  | 14 May - Camp Meeting                         |
| 19 January - Lee-Jackson Dinner 7 pm<br>McAbee Activity Center VA<br>Campus | 22-24 May - Tannehill Reenactment             |
| 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> |
| 4 April - J.C.C. Sanders Lecture  |   |
| 9 April - Camp Meeting  |   |
| Late April / Early May- Confederate Memorial<br>Day - Time & Place - TBD    |   |

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](mailto: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/3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Rode's Brigade/D.H. Hill's Division and Rodes Division/II Corps.

---

Reservation form for Lee-Jackson Banquet:

I plan to attend the Lee-Jackson Banquet January 19th, 7 PM at the McAbee Activity Center.

I wish to make reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$16 per plate. (Check enclosed \_\_\_\_\_)  
(I will pay at door \_\_\_\_\_)

Choice of entree: \_\_\_\_\_ beef  
\_\_\_\_\_ chicken

Mail to: Gen RE Rodes Camp 262 SCV, O Box 1417, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401, or bring to meeting Jan 8th.

---



---

Ballot for Compatriot of the Year 2008

I Nominate \_\_\_\_\_ to be Compatriot of the Year for 2008

## Historical Markers of Tuscaloosa County

### The Jemison Home

Built by Robert Jemison, Jr. Completed 1862, the 26 room Italian Villa style mansion is distinguished by its octagonal cupola and delicate carved fretwork. Jemison, a member of Alabama Legislature for 20 years (1840-1863), Secession Convention 1861 (he voted against secession), Confederate States Senate (1863-65), helped establish Alabama Insane Hospital.

Boyhood home Robert Jemison Van de Graff, inventor of generator used in splitting the atom and of William "Bully" Van de Graff, first All-American Athlete from University of Alabama. Hugo Friedman in 1955 acquired this mansion for Tuscaloosa County as a library.

### 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 January

#### **General Robert Edward Lee - 19 Jan. 1807- Westmoreland, Va.**

Commodore Matthew Fontaine Maury - 14 Jan. 1806 - Spotsylvania Co., Va.

#### **Lt. General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson - 21 Jan. 1824 - Clarksburg, Va.**

Lt. General James Longstreet - 8 Jan. 1821 - Edgefield Dist, S.C.

Lt. General Richard Taylor - 27 Jan. 1826 - Louisville, Ky.

Maj. General John Cabell Breckenridge - 15 Jan. 1821 - Lexington, Ky.

Maj. General John Calvin Brown - 6 Jan. 1827 - Giles County, Tenn.

Maj. General Franklin Gardner - 29 Jan. 1823 - New York City, N.Y.

Maj. General Thomas Carmichael Hindman - 28 Jan. 1828 - Knoxville, Tenn.

Maj. General Joseph Brevard Kershaw - 5 Jan. 1822 - Camden, S.C.

Maj. General Lafayette McLaws - 15 Jan. 1821 - Augusta, Ga.

Maj. General George Edward Pickett - 28 Jan. 1825 - Richmond, Va.

#### **Maj. General Jones Mitchell Withers - 12 Jan. 1814 - Madison Co., Ala.**

Brig. General Abraham Buford - 18 Jan. 1820 - Woodford Co., Ky.

Brig. General William Lewis Cabell - 1 Jan. 1827 - Danville, Va.

Brig. General James Ronald Chalmers - 11 Jan. 1831 - Halifax Co., Va.

Brig. General John Randolph Chambliss Jr. - 23 Jan. 1833 - Greenville Co., Va.

Brig. General James Chestnut Jr. - 18 Jan. 1815 - Camden, S.C.

Brig. General James Holt Clanton - 8 Jan. 1827 - Columbia Co., Ga.

Brig. General John Bullock Clark Jr. - 14 Jan. 1831 - Fayette, Missouri

Brig. General George Blake Cosby - 19 Jan. 1830 - Louisville, Ky.

Brig. General Alfred Cummings - 30 Jan. 1829 - Augusta, Ga.

Brig. General Henry Brevard Davidson - 28 Jan. 1831 - Shelbyville, Tenn.

Brig. General Joseph Robert Davis - 12 Jan. 1825 - Woodville, Maine

Brig. General John Wesley Frazer - 6 Jan. 1827 - Hardin Co., Tenn.

Brig. General Lucius Jeremiah Gartell - 7 Jan. 1821 - Wilkes Co., Ga.

Brig. General Richard Caswell Gatlin - 18 Jan. 1809 - Lenior, N.C.

Brig. General Henry Gray - 19 Jan. 1816 - Laurens District, S.C.

Brig. General Thomas Green - 8 Jan. 1814 - Amelia Co., Va.

Brig. General Richard Griffith - 11 Jan. 1814 - Philadelphia, Pa.

Brig. General James Morrison Hawes - 7 Jan. 1824 - Lexington, Ky.

#### **Brig. General Alexander Travis Hawthorne - 10 Jan. 1825 - Conecuh Co., Ala.**

(Continued Next Page)

## Confederate Generals Birthdays (Continued)

Brig. General Alfred Eugene Jackson - 11 Jan. 1807 - Davidson Co., Tenn.  
 Brig. General John Doby Kennedy - 5 Jan. 1840 - Camden, S.C.  
 Brig. General William Whedbee Kirkland - 13 Jan. 1833 - Hillsborough, N.C.  
 Brig. General Robert Doak Lilley - 28 Jan. 1836 - Greenville, Va.  
 Brig. General William Whann Mackall - 18 Jan. 1817 - Cecil Co., Md.  
 Brig. General Humphrey Marshall - 13 Jan 1812 - Frankfort, Ky.  
 Brig. General William Henry Fitzhugh Payne - 27 Jan. 1830 - Fauquier Co., Va.  
 Brig. General William Raine Peck - 31 Jan. 1818 - Jefferson Co., Tenn.  
 Brig. General John Pegram - 24 Jan. 1832 - Petersburg, Va.  
 Brig. General John Seldon Roane - 8 Jan. 1817 - Wilson Co., Tenn.  
 Brig. General Daniel Ruggles - 31 Jan. 1810 - Barrie, Mass.  
 Brig. General James Phillip Simms - 16 Jan. 1837 - Covington, Ga.  
 Brig. General Merriwether Jeff Thompson - 22 Jan. 1826 - Harpers Ferry, Va.  
 Brig. General Lloyd Tilghman - 18 Jan. 1816 - Claiborne, Md.  
 Brig. General Richard Waterhouse - 12 Jan. 1832 - Rhea Co., Tenn.  
 Brig. General Thomas Neville Waul - 5 Jan. 1813 - Sumter Dist., S.C.  
**Brig. General Jones Mitchell Withers - 12 Jan. 1814 - Madison Co., Ala.**  
 Brig. General William Hugh Young - 1 Jan. 1838 - Boonville, Missouri

## Civil War Units from Alabama

### **Eighteenth Alabama Infantry Regiment**

This regiment was organized at Auburn, Sept. 4, 1861, and the field officers were appointed by President Davis. A few weeks later, it went to Mobile, by way of Huntsville, and was there brigaded under Gen. Gladden of Louisiana, with the Nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-second, and Twenty-fifth Alabama regiments, Withers' division. Ordered to Corinth in March 1862, the regiment was there brigaded under Gen. J.K. Jackson of Georgia, with the Seventeenth and Nineteenth Alabama regiments. The Eighteenth fought the first day at Shiloh, and lost 125 killed and wounded out of 420 men engaged. It was detailed to escort the brigade of Gen. Prentiss, which it had largely aided to capture, to the rear, and did not take part the second day.

After the battle, the regiment being without field officers, was for a short time under officers detailed for the purpose. It was under fire at Blackland, and soon after was sent to Mobile. There the Eighteenth remained till April 1863, when it rejoined the army of Tennessee, in a brigade with the Thirty-sixth and Thirty-eight Alabama regiments, and the Ninth Alabama battalion (the latter being soon after raised to the Fifty-eighth regiment, and consolidated subsequently with the Thirty-second Alabama), commanded successively by Generals Cummings of Georgia, Clayton of Barbour, Holtzclaw of Montgomery, and Colonel Bush Jones of Perry.

At Chicamauga the Eighteenth was terribly mutilated, losing 22 out of 36 officers, and 300 out of 500 men, killed and wounded. At Mission Ridge the Eighteenth was engaged, and lost about 90 men, principally captured. Having wintered at Dalton, it began the Dalton-Atlanta campaign with 500 effective men, and fought all the way down to Jonesboro, losing constantly in killed and wounded, but with no severe loss at any one place. It lost very nearly half its number during the campaign, and rendered effective service. The regiment went with Gen. Hood into Tennessee, and lost about 100 at Franklin, principally captured.

When the army moved to the Carolinas in February 1865, the regiment was ordered to Mobile, and placed in the field works at Spanish Fort. It participated prominently in the siege of that place several weeks later, with some loss, and escaped when the defences were evacuated. It surrendered at Meridian, Miss., May 4, 1865, with the military department.

### **Field and Staff**

Colonels - Edward C. Bullock of Barbour; died in service. Eli S. Shorter of Barbour; resigned. James T. Holtzclaw of Montgomery; wounded at Chicamauga; promoted. Peter F. Hunley of Shelby.

(Continued Next Page)

## Eighteenth Alabama (Continued)

Lieutenant Colonels - Eli S. Shorter; promoted. J.T. Holtzclaw; wounded at Shiloh; promoted; Richard F. Inge of Greene; killed at Chicamauga. Peter F. Hunley; promoted. Shep. Ruffin of Pike; promoted.  
Adjutants - B.W. Starke of Pike; wounded at Shiloh; resigned. John P.C. Whitehead of Georgia; transferred. R.P. Baker of Mobile.

### **Captains, and Counties from Which the Companies Came.**

Coffee - William M. Moxley; resigned. B.W. Starke; wounded at Shiloh; resigned. Joseph Justice; killed at Chicamauga. Noah Hutchinson.  
Covington - James Brady; resigned. O.A. Stringer; killed at Chicamauga. Thomas Hardwick.  
Jefferson - James Oliver; resigned. James McLaughlin.  
Coosa - Guy Smith; resigned. Charles M. Cox; resigned. W.H. Hammond; killed at Chicamauga. George M. Williams; wounded at Chicamauga; captured at Franklin.  
Tuskaloosa - Richard F. Inge; promoted. S.K. Wilkerson; captured at Mission Ridge.  
Butler - H. Clay Armstrong; resigned. Aug. C. Greene; wounded at Jonesboro.  
Jefferson - James Haughey; resigned. H.P. Walker.  
Pike - Shep. Ruffin; promoted. S.K. Fielder; killed at Chicamauga. J.B. Darby; wounded at New Hope.  
Shelby - Peter F. Hunley; wounded at Shiloh; promoted. J.M. Mickle; killed at Chicamauga. .... Martin.  
Talladega - John Calhoun; resigned. H. Clay Stone; wounded at Chicamauga; detached. Thomas M. Riser.

## **Dixie flag tag yields firing, suit**

Therapist, former employer battle over 'symbol of hate' on bumper

By [Lawrence Buser](#) ([Contact](#)), Memphis Commercial Appeal Wednesday, October 8, 2008

A marriage and family therapist from Olive Branch who considers the Confederate battle flag "a venerated object" says he was illegally fired for refusing to remove his special Mississippi license tag bearing the flag logo of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

His former employer, Compass Intervention Center on Lowrance near Hacks Cross Road, says it only asked Adrian Paul McLaren, not to park in a way that would make another Confederate flag on his front bumper visible to guests.

The Circuit Court suit filed Tuesday asks for up to \$500,000 and attorneys fees.

McLaren said in the suit that officials at the residential adolescent treatment center began making the parking request in 2006 and that he spent 20 minutes explaining the history, his personal beliefs and Christian aspects about Confederate symbolism.

He said that after an ongoing series of corrective action notices from his employer, McLaren began parking head-in to comply with the request to hide the front tag from view in the parking lot.

The company, however, then began to complain about his Mississippi-issued license plate on the rear of the car that also displayed the Confederate battle flag logo of the Sons of Confederate Veterans McLaren said in the suit.

He said he was fired in October last year when he refused to remove the tag.

In correspondence McLaren filed with his lawsuit, Compass Intervention indicated it was concerned that its many inner-city, low-income residents and visitors might be offended or "incorrectly perceive your tag as a political symbol of hate."

"While Compass Intervention Center acknowledges your right to place such an item on your vehicle, we do ask that you exercise restraint and consideration for the residents at our facility," CEO Nashon McPherson said in a letter last year.

The company said its request was not unreasonable and denied that it ever asked him to remove his license plate.

In August, a mistrial was declared in a Knoxville teen's free-speech lawsuit over a dress code in Anderson County that banned him from wearing Confederate flag on his clothing.

-- Lawrence Buser: 529-2385



The tree line beyond the Sheetz gas station is the site of the proposed Wal-Mart Supercenter. Opponents say the store would unleash a wave of development, marring the landscape around the Wilderness Battlefield of the Civil War. (By Tracy A. Woodward -- The Washington Post)

## History Buffs Rise Against Wal-Mart

Store Planned Near Civil War Battlefield in Va.

*By Nick Miross*

Washington Post Staff Writer

Saturday, December 27, 2008; Page B01

Like Civil War generals, the generals of modern commercial development are attracted to large open spaces along well-traveled roads, typically on the outskirts of a town or major population center. The former picked those sites for battlefields a century and a half ago; the latter like them today for big-box stores.

And once again, great armies are mustering on the Virginia Piedmont -- historians and preservationists on one side, big retail and developers on the other -- this time in cash-strapped Orange County, 60 miles south of the District, where Wal-Mart wants to build a supercenter directly opposite the Wilderness Battlefield.

There, in May 1864, 24,000 soldiers were killed or wounded as the first clash between Gen. Robert E. Lee and Gen. Ulysses S. Grant produced famously hellish combat in a burning thicket of scrub oak and spindly pine trees. The National Park Service owns 2,800 acres of the core battlefield, whose larger area extends across nearly 7,000 acres.

That land is mostly undeveloped, and to Wal-Mart, it looks like a prime retail location. The parcel where the company plans to build its 138,000-square-foot store and parking lot has long been zoned for commercial development but has little more than a small shopping plaza opposite a Sheetz gas station. There are also preliminary plans for a larger retail, office and residential complex, Wilderness Crossing, that would be built adjacent to the Wal-Mart, although no formal proposals have been submitted.

Neither the supercenter nor the larger complex would be built on the core battlefield area. A study commissioned by the company found that the parcel slated for development is not historically or archaeologically significant.

But opponents contend that the supercenter would unleash a wave of sprawling development through the area, marring the mostly rural landscape and the memory of the dead. The Battle of the Wilderness was the first clash in the long Overland Campaign that would end the war 11 months later at Appomattox Courthouse, according to Pulitzer Prize-winning historian James McPherson.

"The Wilderness is an indelible part of our history, it's very ground hallowed by the American blood spilled there, and it cannot be moved," read a letter signed by McPherson and 252 other historians and preservationists that was sent recently to Wal-Mart's president and chief executive, Lee Scott. "Surely Walmart can identify a site that would meet its needs without changing the very character of the battlefield."

The letter's signatories include a who's who of Civil War heavyweights: filmmaker Ken Burns, Pulitzer winner David McCullough, University of Virginia professor Garry Gallagher, Virginia Tech Center for Civil War Studies Executive Director James I. Robertson and other scholars from across the country.

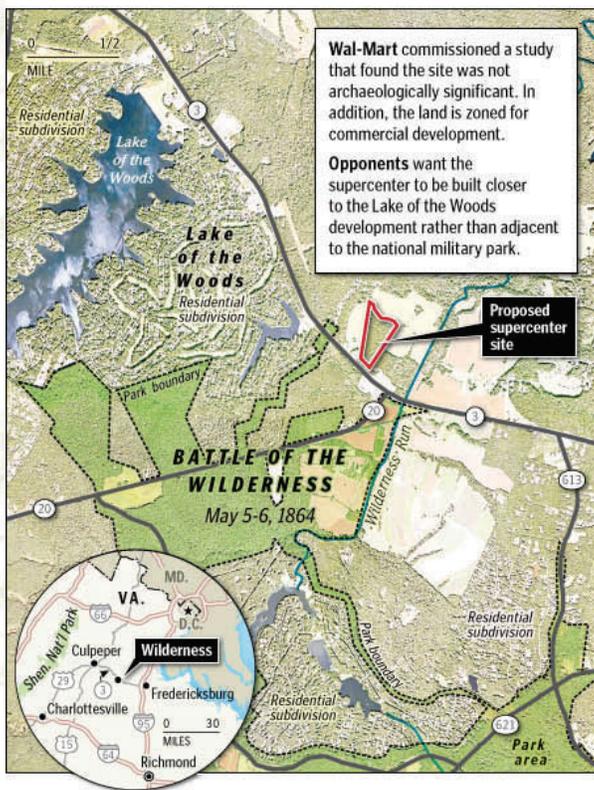
"Every one of these modern intrusions on the historic landscape degrades the value and experience of that landscape," said McPherson, who said that he has been to the proposed site and that a Wal-Mart would take development in the area "a quantum leap higher."

Keith Morris, a spokesman for Wal-Mart, said that the company has looked at other locations in the area but that none was as attractive. "This is the site we're going forward with," Morris said, describing it as "an ideal location." The land is already zoned for commercial use and targeted for development by Orange County, he said. "There is a void here in this immediate area, especially in retail growth."

Preservation groups in Virginia have generally been successful in recent years in steering development projects away from battlefields or reaching compromises with builders that result in partial protection for historic sites. A 214-acre portion of the Chancellorsville battlefield, a few miles down the road from the proposed Wal-Mart, was acquired for preservation by the Civil War Preservation Trust between 2004 and 2006. And in Prince William County,

(Continued Next Page)

## Wal-Mart (Continued)



A proposed 138,000-square-foot Wal-Mart Supercenter near the site of a major Civil War battle has sparked a development debate in Orange County, Va.

By Laris Karklis - The Washington Post - December 27, 2008

road, closer to the Lake of the Woods gated subdivision, which has about 4,000 residents and would be the store's major source of customers.

"It's got nothing to do with Wal-Mart," said Jim Campi, spokesman for the Civil War Preservation Trust, the group leading the fight. "But this is the worst possible location. I believe this is the closest Wal-Mart has ever tried to build next to a national park."

The Wilderness Battlefield is part of the National Park Service's Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, which also includes the Chancellorsville Battlefield.

Wal-Mart spokesman Morris said the company should be judged only on the merits of its proposed store and not by other development that it might attract. "All we have control over is what we're proposing," he said. "Don't criticize this plan because you're afraid something will get built after that. We shouldn't be held accountable because people's real concern is future commercial development a year or five years down the road."

The company has offered to place commemorative markers and other monuments to the battle at the supercenter. "There's no reason why [the battlefield and the store] can't coexist," Morris said.

As for residents, some said they were willing to trade a little history for convenience.

"I think we need it here," said Nina Hudson, who said she drives 30 to 40 miles round trip to shop at Wal-Mart in Culpeper or Fredericksburg.

"That's the past, and we have to think about the future," said Jackie Lee, who also lives near the proposed store. "The world's growing, and you can't stop that."

Stuart Stevens, a naval police officer, said he's dead set against the Wal-Mart. "They don't care about history," he said. "They just care about the almighty dollar."

Early this month, not far from the proposed Wal-Mart site, the park superintendent, Russ Smith, and the park historian, Eric Mink, took a walk out to a headstone near Ellwood Manor, a 1790s house that served as headquarters for Union commanders during the battle and is being restored.

127 acres of the Bristoe Station battlefield's core section were preserved in a 2002 deal with residential developers who wanted to put hundreds of houses there.

But that was before the economic slump.

"I think economic downturns clarify some things," said R. Mark Johnson, chairman of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, which will ultimately decide on the proposal. "In this environment, to have a major retailer like Wal-Mart still want to come in is fairly significant and not something we can be casual about."

Johnson said he plans to support Wal-Mart and thinks that a majority of the five-member board will vote to approve the supercenter. The company's proposal first must be reviewed by county planners and state transportation officials and then will go to a public hearing, Johnson said. He said he expected the proposal to come before the supervisors for a vote between February and April.

Based on sales estimates, the Wal-Mart is expected to generate about \$500,000 a year in tax revenue for Orange County. The county's budget, including its school spending, is roughly \$90 million, Johnson said, and tax revenue is falling.

"In order to have a healthy economy, you need retail in order to satisfy demand," Johnson said. "If [the project] doesn't happen in Orange County, it'll happen in Spotsylvania County, and then we'll lose that revenue." There are three Wal-Mart stores in the Fredericksburg area, including Spotsylvania County, and one in Culpeper.

Opponents of the Wal-Mart plan said they are not against the company or its presence in Orange County, only its proposed location. They are urging Wal-Mart to build a few miles down the

(Continued Next Page)

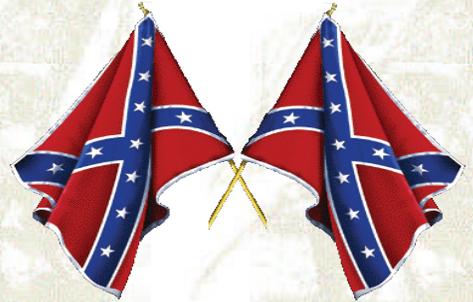
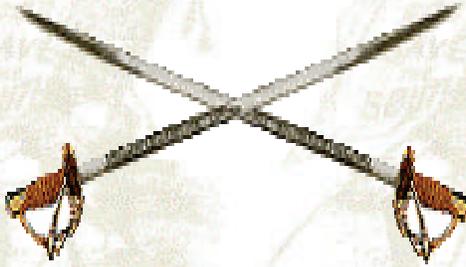
Wal-Mart (Continued) The view from the front porch has changed little in 150 years, encompassing mostly open fields, old barns and rolling hills.

"These are sacred spaces," Smith said, worrying that visitors to the historic home would also face views of Wal-Mart.

The crudely cut headstone in a cornfield near the house is marked "Arm of Stonewall Jackson," designating the spot where the general's amputated arm was supposedly buried after his accidental and mortal wounding by his own men in the 1863 Chancellorsville battle.

The Park Service excavated the site but never found the arm, Smith said.

# We Dare Defend Our Rights !



Here is a confederate quote from Col. John Inzer commander of the 58th Alabama Infantry Regiment. Inzer was captured during the fighting around Chattanooga Tennessee & imprisoned at Sandusky Ohio.

Everyday a Yankee officer was sent around to offer confederates a release from prison if they would join the Union army. On one particular when the Yankee officer was making his proposal Col. Inzer replied to him & said,

" If all of hell was boiled down to a pint I would drink it before I'd join your damned Yankee army! " Of course, all to the delight of the cheering confederates listening.

This quote can be found in his diary which SCV camp # 308 in Ashville Alabama has had printed in book form entitled, " Diary of A Confederate Soldier " the memories of Col. John Inzer.

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