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1st Lieutenant Cdr:

David Allen

2nd Lieutenant Cdr:

Robert Beams

Adjutant :

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INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE

General Rodes 2

Historical Marker &  
Generals Birthdays 3

AL Civil War Unit 4

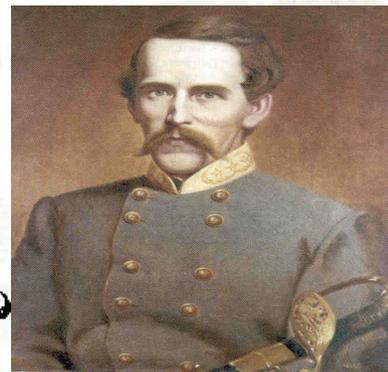
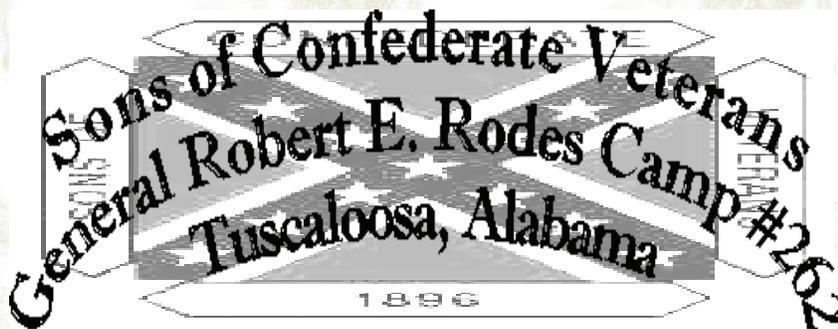
20th AL Inf Rgmt

UDC License 5  
Plate

Anniston Dispute 6

Forrest City, AR 6

Song Lyrics 7



March 2009



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

## Notes From The Adjutant

Gen R. E. Rodes Camp 262, Sons of Confederate Veterans, will meet at 7 PM Thursday night, March 12th, 2009, at the Tuscaloosa Public Library.

David Allen will be showing a film about "The Battle of Brices Crossroads", in which Gen. Nathan B. Forrest won one of the most decisive victories of the War. David will discuss the battle, and describe why it was such an outstanding victory.

We will be discussing plans for Confederate Memorial Day in April, and future events such as the Sanders Lecture at the University of Alabama, and the re-enactment of the Battle of Cuba Station to be held at Gainesville, AL March 14th and 15th.

We have received the membership certificates for new members Lt. Colonel Danny Clark and Lewis Barrett, and will be welcoming them into our Camp.

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.

## Upcoming Events



12 March - Camp Meeting  
14-15 March - Gainesville Reenactment

11 June - Camp Meeting  
9 July - Camp Meeting "Show and Tell" TBD

April is Confederate History and Heritage Month  
4 April - J.C.C. Sanders Lecture  
9 April - Camp Meeting  
Late April - Confederate Memorial Day - Time & Place - TBD

August - Summer Stand Down and Bivouac  
Camp Meeting

10 September - Camp Meeting

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

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](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 Rodes'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 March**

General Braxton Bragg - 22 Mar. 1817 - Warrenton, N.C.  
 Lt. General Wade Hampton - 28 Mar. 1818 - Charleston, S.C.  
 Maj. General Matthew Calbraith Butler - 8 Mar. 1836 - Greenville, S.C.  
 Maj. General Thomas James Churchill - 10 Mar. 1824 - Jefferson Co., Ky.  
 Maj. General Henry DeLamar Clayton - 7 Mar. 1827 - Pulaski, Ga.  
 Maj. General Patrick Romaine Cleburne - 17 Mar. 1828 - County Cork, Ireland  
 Maj. General George Bibb Crittenden - 20 Mar. 1812 - Russellville, Ky.  
 Maj. General James Fleming Fagan - 1 Mar. 1828 - Clark Co., Ky.  
 Maj. General John Sappington Marmaduke - 14 Mar. 1833 - Arrow Rock, Missouri  
 Maj. General William Thompson Martin - 25 Mar. 1823 - Glasgow, Ky.  
 Maj. General William Henry Chase Whitting - 22 Mar. 1824 - Biloxi, Miss.  
 Brig. General William Wirt Adams - 22 Mar. 1819 - Frankfort, Ky.

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Confederate Generals Birthdays (Continued)

Brig. General William Nelson Rector Beall - 20 Mar. 1825 - Bardstown, Ky.  
 Brig. General William Robertson Boggs - 18 Mar. 1829 - Augusta, Ga.  
**Brig. General William Felix Brantley - 12 Mar. 1830 - Greene Co., Ala.**  
 Brig. General John Bratton - 7 Mar. 1831 - Winnsboro, S.C.  
 Brig. General Montgomery Dent Corse - 14 Mar. 1816 - Alexandria, D.C.  
 Brig. General William Ruffin Cox - 11 Mar. 1832 - Halifax Co., N.C.  
 Brig. General Johnson Kelly Duncan - 19 Mar. 1827 - York, Penn.  
 Brig. General John Dunovant - 5 Mar. 1825 - Chester, S.C.  
 Brig. General John Echols - 20 Mar. 1823 - Lynchburg, Va.  
 Brig. General Martin Witherspoon Gary - 25 Mar. 1831 - Cokesbury, S.C.  
 Brig. General Hiram Bronson Granbury - 1 Mar. 1831 - Copiah Co., Miss.  
 Brig. General Louis Hebert - 13 Mar. 1820 - Iberville Parish, La.  
 Brig. General John Robert Jones - 12 Mar. 1827 - Harrisonburg, Va.  
**Brig. General John Herbert Kelly - 31 Mar. 1840 - Pickens Co., Ala.**  
 Brig. General Lewis Henry Little - 19 Mar. 1817 - Baltimore, Md.  
 Brig. General Robert Lowery - 10 Mar. 1830 - Chesterfield Dist., S.C.  
 Brig. General Samuel Bell Maxey - 30 Mar. 1825 - Tompkinsville, Ky.  
 Brig. General Thomas Taylor Munford - 28 Mar. 1831 - Richmond, Va.  
 Brig. General Allison Nelson - 11 Mar. 1822 - Fulton Co., Ga.  
 Brig. General Elisha Franklin Paxton - 4 Mar. 1828 - Rockbridge Co., Va.  
 Brig. General Edward Aylsworth Perry - 15 Mar. 1831 - Richmond, Mass.  
 Brig. General William Flank Perry - 12 Mar. 1823 - Jackson Co., Ga.  
 Brig. General Roswell Sabine Ripley - 14 Mar. 1823 - Worthington, Ohio  
 Brig. General Felix Huston Robertson - 9 Mar. 1839 - Washington, Tx.  
 Brig. General Jerome Bonaparte Robertson - 14 Mar. 1815 - Woodford Co., Ky.  
 Brig. General Robert Emmett Rodes - 29 Mar. 1829 - Lynchburg, Va.  
 Brig. General Francis Asbury Shoup - 22 Mar. 1834 - Laurel, Ind.  
 Brig. General William Richard Terry - 12 Mar. 1827 - Bedford Co., Va.  
 Brig. General Edward Lloyd Thomas - 23 Mar. 1825 - Clarke Co., Ga.  
 Brig. General William Henry Wallace - 24 Mar. 1827 - Laurens Dist., S.C.  
 Brig. General John Wilkins Whitfield - 11 Mar 1818 - Franklin, Tenn.  
**Brig. General Sterling Alexander Martin Wood - 17 Mar. 1823 - Florence, Ala.**

Civil War Units from Alabama

**Twentieth Alabama Infantry Regiment**

This regiment was organized at Montgomery, Sept. 16, 1861, and proceeded to Mobile in November. In February 1862 it went to Knoxville, and was placed under Gen. Leadbetter of Mobile. Transferred to Barton's brigade, the Twentieth operated for some time in east Tennessee, and advanced into Kentucky with Gen. Kirby Smith, being in Reynolds' brigade, Heth's division. It was in the pursuit of Gen. Sill on Salt river, and joined Gen. Bragg just after the battle of Perryville.

The regiment was in Col. T.H. Taylor's brigade for a short time, but shortly after the return to Tennessee a brigade of Alabamians was organized - the Twentieth, Twenty-third, Thirtieth, Thirty-first, and Forty-sixth regiments - and placed under Gen. Tracy of Madison, and in Stevenson's division.

A few days prior to the battle of Murfreesboro, the division was sent to Vicksburg, and the regiment fought at Port Gibson the following spring, losing heavily in casualties. At Baker's Creek it again suffered severely, and was then pent up in Vicksburg. During that dreary siege the ranks of the Twentieth were greatly thinned, and it surrendered with the fortress.

After the fall of Gen. Tracy at Port Gibson, Gen. S.D. Lee of South Carolina commanded the brigade, till Gen. Pettus of Dallas was placed over it in the parole camp at Demopolis. Ordered to join Gen. Bragg, the Twentieth participated in the battle of Mission Ridge without loss.

(Continued Next Page)

**Alabama Civil War Unit (Continued):** The winter was passed at Dalton, and the regiment was engaged in the constant fighting from Dalton to Atlanta, being conspicuous at Rocky-face, and losing heavily at Kennesa. Its colors were borne through the iron hail at Jonesboro, and the remnant suffered severely. It moved into Tennessee with Gen. Hood, and lost largely at Nashville. From that disastrous field the Twentieth passed into North Carolina, and fought at Kinston and Bentonville. It was surrendered at Salisbury - about 165 rank and file. Of the original 1100 men with which the Twentieth took the field, only 63 were present at Salisbury.

#### **Field and Staff**

Colonels - Robert T. Jones of Perry; transferred. Isham W. Garrot of Perry; promoted, but killed at Vicksburg in command of the regiment. Edmund W. Pettus of Dallas; promoted. Jas. M. Dedman of Dallas; wounded near Franklin.

Lieutenant Colonels - I.W. Garrot of Perry; promoted. E.W. Pettus; captured at Port Gibson, but escaped; promoted. James M. Dedman of Dallas; promoted. Mitchell T. Porter of Jefferson; resigned. John W. Davis of Shelby; wounded at Rocky-face, and Marietta.

Majors - E.W. Pettus; promoted. A.S. Pickering of Perry; killed at Port Gibson. James M. Dedman; promoted. M.T. Porter; promoted. John W. Davis; wounded at Marietta; promoted. John G. Harris of Greene.

Adjutants - John L. Smith of Dallas; promoted to the adjutancy of the brigade. Francis M. Vance of Dallas.

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

Perry - A.S. Pickering; promoted. Leroy E. Davis.

Dallas and Bibb - James M Dedman wounded at Vicksburg; promoted. Thomas K. Fergusson.

Jefferson - Mitchell T. Porter; promoted. Jack Ayres; killed at Jonesboro. Andrew J. Tarrant.

Bibb - R. Hobson Pratt;\* captured at Port Gibson. Lieut. Wm. Lowery commanded.

Greene - .... Watkins; resigned. John McKee Gould; detailed on Gen. Pettus' staff. Lieut. J.S. Smith commanded.

Perry and Bibb - Lucius J. Lockett; resigned. W.H. Sheppard; resigned. Isaac W. Parrish.

Shelby, Bibb, and Jefferson - John W. Davis; promoted. R.M. Deshazo; resigned. Geo. S. Nave; wounded at Marietta.

Perry and Bibb - John P. Peterson; resigned. Samuel W. Davidson.

Greene - John G. Harris; promoted. Albert Avery; resigned. Noah H. Gewin.

Tuskaloosa - Jos. C. Guild; resigned. Benj. Massingale.

## United Daughters of the Confederacy, Alabama Division License Plate Available

<http://www.revenue.alabama.gov/motorvehicle/CtoPMay09.htm>



Alabama Distinctive License Plates Available for Commitment to Purchase Applications

Commitment Period: June 1, 2008 through May 31, 2009

Additional Fee: \$50.00

Tag Type: ZZ

- License Plate Category: United Daughters of the Confederacy
- Sponsoring Organization: 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.

- Required number of pre-commitments: 250

Secondary Tag Type: 94

## Group protests Anniston mayor over Lee comments

<http://www.al.com/newsflash/regional/index.ssf?/base/news-41/1235597642116510.xml&storylist=alabamaneews>

ANNISTON, Ala. (AP) — Protesters have called for Anniston Mayor Gene Robinson's resignation over comments he made about "black corruption" and support of a holiday celebrating Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

The Anniston-based New Alabama Voters League rallied the crowd in front of city hall Tuesday. Protesters took issue with Robinson for saying he sees no problem with celebrating Lee's birthday on the same day as the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, since the state observes both.

The protest group's director, the Rev. Freddy Rimpsey, asked for the mayor's resignation within 30 days during the city council's public comment period Tuesday.

"We don't have to wait 30 days. You can have your answer now," Robinson said. "I'm not resigning."

Lawyers for resident Curtis Ray also filed suit Monday asking for \$500,000 in damages over comments Robinson made that included Ray after the mayor's August election.

Robinson said he paid Ray \$1,700 to pass out marked sample ballots at polling places and to "assist people to the door."

"I bought into the black corruption in Anniston and it worked," Robinson told The Anniston Star.

Robinson, who apologized for his comments, said Councilman Ben Little was behind the suit and that Little's attacks are "becoming a weekly occurrence because they can't break my back."

Little said he was not behind the suit.

## Town named for early KKK head doesn't dwell on it

The Associated Press Published: Friday, February 27, 2009 at 7:22 p.m.

FORREST CITY, Ark. — A solitary sign recounts how workers led by the namesake of this Arkansas Delta town, Nathan Bedford Forrest, laid the final leg of the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad over Crowley's Ridge, a hilly stretch of windblown soil running through the Arkansas Delta.



A portrait of Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest hangs in the St. Francis County Museum, Friday, Feb. 27, 2009, in Forrest City Ark. Forrest also served as the first grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan.  
The Associated Press

The marker stops there in describing the man whose name adorns parks and college campuses across the South, a Confederate raider and slave trader whose troops massacred black Union soldiers and who served as the first grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan.

Nearly a century and a half later, many here in this majority black town that Forrest helped create know nothing of the connection.

"People think it's forest, like trees," said Amanda Clifton, who teaches at East Arkansas Community College. "People in my history classes, they're surprised where the name came from."

Forrest's real record shows him as neither all villain nor all war hero.

"It is neither as good as it sounds or bad as it sounds," said Brian Steel Wills, a history professor at the University of Virginia at Wise who wrote a book on the general. "Forrest is a lot more complicated than that."

Forrest compiled a fortune before the war as a plantation owner and slave trader who imported Africans even after the practice had been made illegal. He became a general renowned for leading hit-and-run raids into Union territory, and would become most known for his role in the Fort Pillow massacre, when soldiers under his control killed about 300 black Union troops in western Tennessee.

Northern newspaper accounts at the time describe Forrest's soldiers as beating and shooting injured soldiers, women and children, and in one horrific instance, nailing a black soldier to a tent, then setting it ablaze.

Forrest denied aspects of the massacre when testifying before Congress. The federal government never prosecuted him, mindful of adding to the contempt many white Southerners felt during Reconstruction.

(Continued Next Page)

**Forrest (Continued):** Forrest's name was a commodity in those early days after the war, at least in the South, where he made royalties lending his name to insurance and mercantile companies. The Klan sought him out to be the organization's first grand wizard, though later — after the group got so violent that states brought out militia to fight it — he would publicly deny even being a member while privately and futilely ordering the Klan to dissolve.

Forrest's shrewdness still drove him. He angered some white farm owners when he began offering higher wages to draw black workers to his railroad-building campaigns. Records of the Freedmen's Bureau, which helped former slaves find clothes, food and jobs, even noted that the former slave trafficker offered the best wages, Wills said.

"People who want to explain (his involvement with the KKK) away say he treated them well," the professor said. "Now that doesn't make him Mother Teresa. ... It makes him a practical businessman in the world he lived."

Forrest died in 1877 and is buried with his wife Mary in a downtown Memphis, Tenn., park named for him, a statue of him on a horse marking their grave. Dozens of other statutes and structures across the South bear his name as well, and not without notice.

One businessman recently suggested exhuming the couple's bodies for burial elsewhere. Last year, a TV ad by Tennessee congressional candidate Nikki Tinker put incumbent Rep. Steve Cohen's picture next to the image of a hooded Klansman. The ad by Tinker, who is black, criticized Cohen, who is Jewish, for voting against renaming the Memphis park. Cohen trounced Tinker in the August primary.

Last fall, a Florida school district considered changing the name of a Jacksonville high school amid complaints by a black board member that Forrest was a "terrorist and racist." The board voted 5-2, along racial lines, to keep Forrest's name on the predominantly black school.

In Forrest City, most of the 13,500 residents know what they know about Forrest from school quizzes about the town's origins: "Who was the man who brought the men here to build the railroad?" Most don't realize Forrest also helped plan the settlement and set up the area's first commissary.

The name itself causes little fuss. The general's portrait hangs quietly over a bouquet of silk flowers at the St. Francis County Museum, dressed in rebel grays and resting his hands on the hilt of a calvary sword. Only the occasional passer-by mentions the general's ties to the Klan.

"Whatever the reason was he did what he did, I don't know. I wasn't there and I can't explain any of that," museum director Shelley Gervasi said. "I don't really have people who come in and per se harp on it or say we should take him off the wall."

Another tribute to Forrest sits a block away, near a railroad crossing and a row of abandoned storefronts. Those empty stores give Mayor Gordon McCoy more pause than the city's namesake.

"With all the political issues and financial struggles our country is facing right now — and certainly in the Delta — that ranks at the bottom of our list right now — who this town is named after," said McCoy, who is black. "We certainly understand the history. But history is what it is: history. And we're moving forward."

## Song Lyrics Spark Debate: Kids Vs. Sons Of Confederate Veterans

Posted By: Scott Broom

WUSA Ch. 9 Washington/Virginia/Maryland [http://www.wusa9.com/rss/local\\_article.aspx?storyid=81945](http://www.wusa9.com/rss/local_article.aspx?storyid=81945)

GLEN BURNIE, Md. (WUSA) -- Fourth graders at the Glen Burnie Park Elementary School are preparing for the possibility they might be called to testify before legislators at the Maryland State House in a debate over song lyrics that are being defended by the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The children are in the news after writing letters to legislators protesting the lyrics of the state song, Maryland My Maryland, a living relic of civil war history still sung at major events such as the Preakness. Among other things, the song written in 1861, declares Abraham Lincoln is a "despot" and rails against "Northern scum".

Singing the song is the musical equivalent of flying the confederate flag, according to some critics.

The letters got the attention of State Del. Pamela Beidle, D-Anne Arundel, who helped introduce a bill to change the lyrics to a tamer 1891 version.

Defenders of the song say include Donald Beck, Maryland division commander for the Tennessee-based Sons of Confederate Veterans,

"Lincoln hardly got any votes in Maryland in 1860, so the song reflected the sentiments of Marylanders at the time," Beck told the Examiner newspaper. "If you changed everything based on current attitudes, you'd have to rewrite all of the history books."

Hearings on the bills to change the lyrics have not been scheduled yet.

(Continued Next Page)

Song Lyrics (Continued):

MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND

**I**

The despot's heel is on thy shore,

Maryland!  
His torch is at thy temple door,  
Maryland!  
Avenge the patriotic gore  
That flecked the streets of Baltimore,  
And be the battle queen of yore,  
Maryland! My Maryland!

**II**

Hark to an exiled son's appeal,  
  
Maryland!  
My Mother State! to thee I kneel,  
Maryland!  
For life or death, for woe or weal,  
Thy peerless chivalry reveal,  
And gird thy beauteous limbs with steel,  
Maryland! My Maryland!

**III**

Thou wilt not cower in the dust,  
  
Maryland!  
Thy beaming sword shall never rust,  
Maryland!  
Remember Carroll's sacred trust,  
Remember Howard's warlike thrust,-  
And all thy slumberers with the just,  
Maryland! My Maryland!

**IV**

Come! 'tis the red dawn of the day,  
  
Maryland!  
Come with thy panoplied array,  
Maryland!  
With Ringgold's spirit for the fray,  
With Watson's blood at Monterey,  
With fearless Lowe and dashing May,  
Maryland! My Maryland!

**V**

Come! for thy shield is bright and strong,  
  
Maryland!  
Come! for thy dalliance does thee wrong,  
Maryland!  
Come to thine own anointed throng,  
Stalking with Liberty along,  
And sing thy dauntless slogan song,  
Maryland! My Maryland!

(Continued Next Page)

Song Lyrics (Continued):**VI**

Dear Mother! burst the tyrant's chain,

Maryland!

Virginia should not call in vain,

Maryland!

She meets her sisters on the plain-

Sic semper! 'tis the proud refrain

That baffles minions back amain,

Maryland!

Arise in majesty again,

Maryland! My Maryland!

**VII**

I see the blush upon thy cheek,

Maryland!

For thou wast ever bravely meek,

Maryland!

But lo! there surges forth a shriek,

From hill to hill, from creek to creek,

Potomac calls to Chesapeake,

Maryland! My Maryland!

**VIII**

Thou wilt not yield the Vandal toll,

Maryland!

Thou wilt not crook to his control,

Maryland!

Better the fire upon thee roll, Better the shot, the blade, the bowl,

Than crucifixion of the Soul,

Maryland! My Maryland!

**IX**

I hear the distant thunder-hum,

Maryland!

The Old Line bugle, fife, and drum,

Maryland!

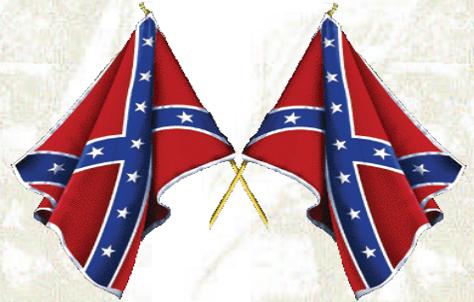
She is not dead, nor deaf, nor dumb-

Huzza! She spurns the Northern scum!

She breathes! She burns! She'll come! She'll come!

Maryland! My Maryland!

# 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