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Joey Smithson

1st Lieutenant Cdr :

David Allen

2nd Lieutenant Cdr :

Robert Beams

Adjutant :

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July 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, SCV, will meet Thursday night, Sep 10, 2009 at 7 PM in the Tuscaloosa Public Library.

Our speaker will be our Brigade Commander, Allen Koester, who will speak on "The War is not Civil any more". We will be discussing electing new Camp officers for the year 2009-2010, and making plans for the annual fall outing at Thisldu.

We have 2 members, Phil Poole and Lt. Colonel Danny Clark, who are to be awarded the SCV's War Service Medal for their service to our country in time of war. We plan to award the medals at the fall outing with a Confederate honor guard and appropriate military honors.

SCV dues for our 2009-2010 year are now due and should be paid by October 31st. If not paid by then, a reinstatement fee of an additional \$7.50 is charged. Annual dues are now \$30 National SCV, \$10 Alabama Division, and \$20 to Camp 262, for a total of \$60.00. Associate dues are \$20.00.

Please try to attend this meeting, lets get our 2009-2010 year off to a good start.

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Upcoming Events



- 10** September-Camp Meeting
- 15** October- Camp Meeting
- 25** Thisldu - TBD
- 12** November - Camp Meeting
- 10** December - Camp Meeting

- 2010**
- 14** January - Camp Meeting
- 18** January - Lee-Jackson Dinner - TBD
- 11** February - Camp Meeting

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

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

General Robert Emmet Rodes (1829-1864)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Historical Markers of Tuscaloosa County

Running Skirmish at Romulus

Side One

5 April 1865 – Croxton's brigade left Northport by way of the (old) Columbus Road to Coker, then camped for the night on the old Eutaw Road toward Romulus. Confederate Gen. Wirt Adams's 1500-man cavalry brigade, traveling from Columbus Miss to reinforce Gen. Forrest at Marion Ala, learned of Croxton's presence in the area.

6 April – Croxton's brigade traveled southward across the swollen Sipsey River toward Lanier's Mill near Pleasant Ridge. After looting and burning the mill, they reversed direction to move back toward Northport, stopping along the way to feed horses and eat provisions taken at Lanier's Mill. As the brigade resumed its march near noon, Adams's brigade launched a vigorous assault on the Federals' rear guard, the 6th Ky. Cav. Regt. A running skirmish began as the 6th Ky. Cav. broke until reinforced by 4 companies of the better-armed 2nd Mich. Cav. The brisk engagement continued through a heavy rain until complete darkness overtook the combatants. Both sides then encamped near Romulus, some 13 miles from Northport. Gen. Croxton reported 34 casualties and the loss of a number of horses and ambulance wagons (one of which carried his personal papers). Confederate losses were not reported.

Running Skirmish at Romulus

Side Two

7 April 1865 – Adams's Confederates returned westward toward Columbus Miss in the belief that Croxton was headed that way. Croxton continued on to Northport.

8 April – Croxton, determined to rendezvous with the main Union force sweeping from Selma towards Ga, departed Northport. He followed a route to the northeast dictated by flooded creeks and the Black Warrior, traveling 23 miles north on the old Byler Rd. (US 43N).

9 - 11 April – While encamped in the area, Federal foraging parties stripped the countryside of provisions and its citizens of valuables. War of 1812-veteran John Prewett lost \$26,000 in gold when one of these bands forced his slave to reveal its whereabouts in a nearby cave.

12 April – Traveling via Crabbe Rd. (old Jasper Rd.) to Windham Springs, the brigade departed Tuscaloosa County into the area of Wolf Creek in Walker County. Croxton's "Lost Brigade" eventually rejoined Gen. Wilson's Cavalry Corps on May 1 in Macon Ga, some 3 weeks after Gen. Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

Confederate Generals Birthdays for August

Lt. General John Clifford Pemberton - 10 Aug. 1814 - Philadelphia, Penn.

Lt. Gen. A.P. Stewart - 30 Aug. 1821 - Rogersville, Tenn.

Maj. General John Horace Forney - 12 Aug. 1829 - Lincolnton, N.C.

Maj. General John Porter McCowan - 19 Aug. 1815 - Servierville, Tenn.

Brig. General William Barksdale - 21 Aug. 1821 - Rutherford Co., Tenn.

Brig. General Theodore Washington Brevard - 26 Aug. 1835 - Tuskegee, Ala.

Brig. General Goode Bryan - 31 Aug. 1811 - Hancock Co., Ga.

Brig. General Thomas Fenwick Drayton - 24 Aug. 1808 - Charleston, S.C.

Brig. General Winfield Scott Feathersen - 8 Aug. 1820 - Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Brig. General Daniel March Frost - 9 Aug. 1823 - Schenectady, N.Y.

Brig. General Maxcy Gregg - 1 Aug. 1814 - Columbia, S.C.

Brig. General Roger Weightman Hanson - 27 Aug. 1827 - Winchester, Ky.

Brig. General Nathaniel Harrison Harris - 22 Aug. 1834 - Natchez, Miss.

Brig. General Benjamin Grubb Humphreys - 24 Aug. 1808 - Claiborne Co., Miss.

Brig. General Evander McIvor Law - Aug. 1836 - Darlington, S.C.

Brig. General Danville Ledbetter - 26 Aug. 1811 - Leeds, Maine

Brig. General Geroqe Earl Maney - 24 Aug. 1826 - Franklin, Tenn.

Brig. General William Miller - 3 Aug. 1820 - Ithaca, N.Y.

Brig. General Francis Reddin Tillou Nichols - 20 Aug. 1834 - Donaldsonville, La.

Brig. General Carnot Posey - 5 Aug. 1813 - Wilkinson Co., Miss.

(Continued Next Page)

General's Birthdays (Continued):

Brig. General Carnot Posey - 5 Aug. 1813 - Wilkinson Co., Miss.
 Brig. General William Yarnel Slack - 1 Aug. 1816 - Mason Co., Ky.
 Brig. General George Hume Steuart - 24 Aug. 1828 - Baltimore, Md.
 Brig. General Clement Hoffman "Rock" Stevens - 14 Aug. 1821 - South Carolina
 Brig. General Walter Husted Stevens - 24 Aug. 1827 - Penn Yan, N.Y.
 Brig. General Willaim Terry - 14 Aug. 1824 - Amhurst Co., Va.
 Brig. General James Alexander Walker - 27 Aug. 1832 - Mt. Sidney, Va.

Civil War Units from Alabama

**Twenty-Fifth Alabama
 Infantry Regiment**

This regiment was organized at Mobile in December 1861 by the consolidation of two battalions. It remained in that vicinity under Gen. Gladden, the regiment fought at Shiloh, where its casualties were 15 killed and 75 wounded. Placed under Gen. Gardner, with the Nineteenth, Twenty-second, Thirty-ninth, and Twenty-sixth-Fiftieth, the Twenty-fifth met with trifling loss at Farmington.

It moved into Kentucky with Gen. Bragg from the Chattanooga base, but was not engaged in any action. It came back, and participated at Murfreesboro - Col. Loomis commanding the brigade - with a loss of 13 killed, 88 wounded, and 16 missing, out of about 250 present for duty. The regiment - Gen. Deas in command of the brigade - fell back with the army, and was fearfully mutilated. It again suffered severely at Missionary Ridge, but wintered and recruited at Dalton.

All along the bloody track of the hostile armies through north Georgia, the Twenty-fifth left a record, especially at New Hope. At Atlanta, July 22, the regiment lost 49 per cent of its force, but captured two stands of colors, and more prisoners than it numbered. Six days later, near the same spot, the Twenty-fifth again lost very heavily. It was engaged at Jonesboro without severe loss, but suffered considerably at Columbia, on Hood's arrival in middle Tennessee. At Franklin the regiment again lost largely, and at Nashville its loss was not light, but it preserved its organization on the retreat.

Proceeding to the Carolinas, the Twenty-fifth was in Sherman's front, with some casualties at Columbia and Kinston, and with large loss at Bentonville. Consolidated with the Nineteenth, Twenty-second, Thirty-ninth, and Twenty-sixth-Fiftieth, the regiment was shortly after surrendered at Goldsboro, having about 75 men of the old Twenty-fifth present for duty.

Field and Staff

Colonels - John Q. Loomis of Coosa; wounded at Shiloh and Murfreesboro; resigned. Geo. D. Johnston; promoted.
 Lieutenant Colonels - Wm. B. McClellan of Talladega; resigned; George D. Johnston; promoted.
 Major - George D. Johnston of Perry; promoted.
 Adjutant - John Stout of Coosa; wounded at Murfreesboro, Atlanta and Franklin.

Captains, and Counties from Which the Companies Came.

Covington - M. Harper; killed at Shiloh. Charles Corege; resigned. Bushrod W. Bell.
 Pike - John B. Curtis; resigned. N.B. Rouse.
 Shelby - Wiley Pope; resigned. Lieut. Pledger commanded.
 St. Clair - A.W. Nixon; resigned. H. Lewis Morris; wounded and captured at Murfreesboro; wounded at New Hope and Franklin.
 Pickens - D.M. Richards; wounded and captured at Mission Ridge.
 Randolph - Wm. A. Handley; wounded at Murfreesboro; resigned. F.M. Handley; wounded at Franklin.
 Talladega - Joseph D. McCann; resigned. Archibald A. Patterson; killed at Murfreesboro. Silas P. Bradford.
 Talladega and St. Clair - Edmund Turner; resigned. William Spruce; wounded at Chicamauga.
 Coffee and Pike - D.P. Costello; wounded at Shiloh; killed at Murfreesboro. Dan'l C. Monroe; wounded at Chicamauga.
 Calhoun - Mathew Alexander; resigned. W.B. Howell; wounded at Atlanta and Bentonville.

Confederate Ancestors Birthdays for August

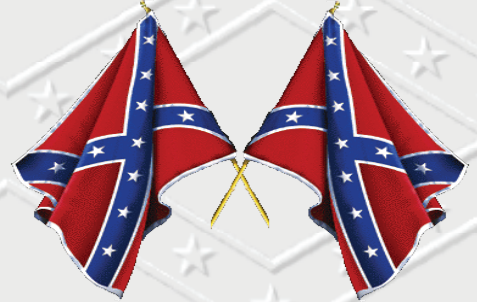
Pvt James T. Hutchins	Co. F, 41st AL Inf Regt	8-21-1842	Ozero Hutchins GGrandfather
2nd Lt William R. Hughes	Co A, 41st AL Inf Regt	8-8-1834	Scotty Hughes GGrandfather
Pvt James C. Bealle	51st AL Partisan Rangers	8-19-1836	Dan Stewart GGGrandfather
2nd Lt George W. Norris	Co G, 41st AL Inf Regt	8-3-1828	Frank Delbridge GGUncle
Pvt Henry T Ramsey	Co F, 26/50th Al Inf Regt	8-14-1837	Frank Delbridge GGUncle

Confederate Ancestors Birthdays for September

Pvt John P. Park	Co D, 2nd AL Cav Regt	9/23/1843	Clyde Biggs - GG Uncle John Park - GUncle
Pvt William R. Maddox	Co G, 41st AL Inf Regt	9/02/1827	Frank Delbridge - Ggrandfather
Pvt George W. Maddox	Co F, 11th MS Cavalry	9/23/1846	Frank Delbridge- GGUncle
Sgt Wilson P. Pool	Co A, 41st AL Inf Regt	9/12/1812	Frank Delbridge- GGGUncle

(One of my favorite ancestors, He asked for a spike on his tombstone "So no Damn Yankee could sit on it")

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