

# Confederate Gazette

## Major Robt. M. White Featured

A profile of Camp #1250's namesake, Major Robert M. White, was done in the February 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the *Temple Daily Telegram*. The article related the history of Major White and his death during combat in Tennessee. Camp member John C. Perry was interviewed for the article and provided the *Telegram's* reporter, Harper Scott Clark, with information about Major White.

included information about the Camp's partnership with the City of Belton to restore the South Belton Cemetery.

The article told of Major



*A companion photo to the February 2<sup>nd</sup> article about Major Robert M. White shows City of Belton workers pouring curbing at South Belton Cemetery.*

The 900 plus word article was featured on the front page of the *Telegram* and

White's early Bell County exploits as a Texas Ranger, helping to defend the home-

land frontier.

In the article Major's White's efforts to raise a Company of Bell County men for the Confederacy was described.

The article also talked of the send off Bell County gave Major White from Belton and quoted a speech given by Miss Veronica Bradford, who presented Major White with a home-made Confederate flag.

The article further described the effort being made by the Camp and City of Belton to make improvements at the South Belton Cemetery.

## Gallantry in Gray Deadline Extended

*Gallantry In Gray*, is a bound volume of information regarding our War Between the States ancestors being published by the Texas Society Order of Confederate Rose (TSOCR). The TSOCR's Project Gallantry In Gray has extended the deadline into March.

Depending on the wealth of information or lack thereof, you can include as many ancestors as you like. The ads you purchase, to be

included in the book, may be as simple as name, rank and company for \$4.00.

If you are fortunate to know a great deal about your ancestors, then you can purchase a full page for only \$35.00. The volume is designed to be a heritage project for our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The extension deadline also includes the development of a new dateline section in the

book. This will include items Confederate veterans wrote or had written about them, include letters written home during the war, journal or diary entries, memorabilia and newspaper articles after the war. If you have something unique, contact the Project Coordinator at, [cbobbitt@peoplepc.com](mailto:cbobbitt@peoplepc.com).

To include one of your ancestors please contact one of the TSOCR ladies in the Camp.



Major  
Robert M. White  
Camp #1250  
Sons of Confederate  
Veterans  
Temple, Texas

[www.scvtemple.com](http://www.scvtemple.com)

Chris Ellis, M.D.  
Camp Commander  
1508 Lakeview Court  
Granbury, TX 76408

John C. Perry  
Newsletter Editor  
P.O. Box 794  
Salado, TX 76571

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White Camp #1250

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# CONFEDERATE PROFILE

## *Norse god in Gray*



**Robert E.  
Rodes**

**At  
Chancellorsville  
Rodes Led  
Jackson's  
Flanking Charge**

He was an assistant professor at VMI and he very much wanted a full professorship, but it didn't go to him, rather it went to a gangly educator named Thomas J. Jackson. Upset, that he didn't get the job, the assistant professor resigned. Years later he would be one of Jackson's Confederate commanders.

Robert Emmett Rodes was born in Lynchburg, Virginia, and graduated from Virginia Military Institute in 1848. After graduating he taught at VMI until he resigned in 1851, when he was passed over for a full professorship.

Utilizing his VMI engineering skills Rodes began working for railroads in Virginia and Tennessee. He then went to work for the Alabama and Chattanooga Railroad in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. By the time the War Between the States began he was the chief engineer for the railroad.

Rather than return to his na-

tive Virginia, Rodes offered his service to the Confederacy through his adopted state of Alabama. He helped form a company, known as the Warrior Guards, who would later become part of the 5<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry. Rodes was elected colonel of the regiment and the unit arrived in Virginia in time for the First Battle of Manassas. (Bull Run).

Over six feet tall, slender, blond, with a sandy mustache, a strong dimpled chin, and flashing blue eyes, Rodes was considered a handsome figure by most Southern ladies. Douglas Southall Freeman, the famous Lee biographer said that Rodes looked like "a Norse god in Confederate gray."

By October 1861, Rodes was promoted to brigadier general and was assigned to command the 1<sup>st</sup> Alabama Brigade, part of Jackson's Corp. Rodes and his men fought at Williamsburg and at Seven Pines, where he was wounded in the arm.

At Chancellorsville Rodes com-

manded the leading division which swept across the Union lines in Jackson's famous flanking move. Following Chancellorsville Rodes was promoted to major-general and given command of D.H. Hill's old division in Richard Ewell's Corp.

There was no criticism of Rodes until the Battle of Gettysburg. At Gettysburg on July 1, 1863 Rodes' men attacked Union forces and sent them scurrying through the town. Unfortunately, Rodes did not pursue the beaten Federals up Cemetery Hill.

He has also been criticized for his slow movement the next day. Rodes was expected to attack the Union forces on Cemetery Hill, but was slow to arrive and by the time he did the major fighting was over and darkness was at hand. Some historians blame this as a major lost opportunity for Lee's Army.

Post Gettysburg, Rodes continued to serve in Ewell's Corp

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## The Sharpshooters

The term sharpshooter had a more general meaning in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. It could mean either a roving precision shooter like the modern sniper or a light infantryman who specialized in scouting, picketing, and skirmishing. The mod-

ern sharpshooter first appeared in Central Europe around 1700.

During the American Civil War the Army of the Potomac had a definite advantage in sharpshooting and light infantry over

the Confederates during the 1862 Peninsular campaign.

In response the Confederates organized their own sharpshooters. Confederate general Robert E. Rodes organized the

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# Reenactment Is On Track

The Battle of Temple Junction Reenactment is on track for its May 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> debut. The event hopes to attract 300 to 400 reenactors. Camp member John Larson is the chairman of the reenactment committee.

day and Sunday and a Saturday night Ball. Students from area schools will be invited to the living history encampment on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

The event will also feature a number of period sutlers, as



One of the ads developed to promote the Battle of Temple Junction Reenactment.

Camp member John C. Perry's company, Cententus Media Group, produced the reenactment's logo and has designed several ads for the event.

The Reenactment will feature a living history encampment and battles to be fought on Satur-

well as food vendors for the spectators.

Ads are being placed in the *Camp Chase Gazette*, *The Civil War News*, as well as local newspapers in Temple and Killeen, and in *N2It* magazine.

## Camp Schedule

### March 10, 2009

Regular Camp Dinner meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall. at 7:00 PM. Speaker: Dan Galloway, Topic: Stephen Dill Lee

### April 11, 2009

Quarterly Camp Dinner meeting

at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall. at 7:00 PM. Speaker: To Be Determined

### May 12, 2009

Regular Camp Dinner meeting at Cotton Patch Café, Temple Mall. at 7:00 PM. Speaker: To Be Determined

## White Mentioned In NY Times Article

An article, from the *New York Times* on May 4, 1863 which mentions the death of Major Robert M. White, was recently located by Camp member John C. Perry.

Perry was doing some additional research on the death of Major White. While finding some new information about his death, Perry stumbled upon the *New York Times* article. Although the article was written with a pro-Northern slant it does mention the death of Major White.

See the article which is re-printed below.

### FROM THE TENNESSEE RIVER.

**The Operations of Gen. Ellet—How the Rebels Waked up the Wrong Passenger.**  
*Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.*

CAIRO, April 30, 1863.

Gen. ELLET, accompanied by Col. ELLET, arrived here to-day on the ram *Homer*, from Fort Henry, where the Marine brigade now lies. From them I learn the particulars of an encounter they had last Saturday with several hundred Texan Rangers, commanded by Maj. WAITE, at a point two miles below the mouth of Duck River. A similar rebel force was stationed at Green Cotton Bar, twelve miles below, under command of Gen. WOODWARD. Each party had two pieces of artillery—ten-pound Parrott guns, and twelve-pound howltzers. The rebels mistook the boats carrying the brigade for transports, returning from carrying reinforcements to Gen. DODGE, and anticipated an easy victory.

Gen. WOODWARD intended to pick up any boat that should escape Major WAITE. The river is very narrow at the point of attack, and the boats had to run within two rods of the shore. The rebels concealed themselves till the *Autocrat*, the flag-ship, was nearly opposite, when they opened with every gun they had. Unexpectedly to them, the fire was vigorously returned with cannon and sharpshooters. The *Autocrat* was struck nine times with solid shot, while her pilot-house, Texas and side were peppered with musket balls. The *Diana*, Col. ELLET's boat, which came next, received shots and musket balls. The *Adams* was struck twice. The rebels, as soon as they discovered they had caught a Tarter, fled in great disorder. Gen. ELLET landed cavalry two miles below, and started in pursuit, but the rebels outran him, throwing off hats, caps, coats, blankets, and everything else that would impede their progress. So far as is known, the rebels lost ten killed and twenty wounded. The Federal loss is two killed and four wounded. One or two horses were killed on board the boats. Gen. Woodward left his post for safer quarters pretty soon after the engagement had commenced.



### May 15-17, 2009

Battle of Temple Junction Reenactment, Temple Industrial Park. Volunteers Needed!

New York Times article from 1863 mentions Major R. M. White

Next Camp Meeting:  
March 10<sup>th</sup>  
Cotton Patch Café  
at the Temple Mall  
7:00 PM

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P.O. Box 794

Salado, Texas 76571

Next Meeting:  
March 10th  
Cotton Patch Cafe  
Temple Mall  
7:00 PM

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## Real Daughter in Temple

A front page article in the March 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the *Temple Daily Telegram*, by Patti Benoit, highlights the fact that Temple resident

Ruby Smith maybe a "Real Daughter." A "Real" son or daughter is someone whose parent served in the Confederate military.

Mrs. Smith, who is 102 years old, is the daughter of Confederate private Edward Augusta Mann, who served in the 9<sup>th</sup> Georgia Artillery.

Her father was a native of Georgia and came to Texas after the war. After his first wife died, Mann married Missouri Deaver in 1883.



*Ruby Smith of Temple, who is 102 years old, is a "Real Daughter."  
Photo by Scott Gaulin, Temple Daily Telegram*

She was 18 years younger than her husband.

He eventually bought a farm near Union Grove, about ten miles southwest of Belton, where he raised cattle, cotton and wheat. He died when Mrs. Smith, who was one of nine children, was only 13 in 1919.

Mrs. Smith eventually married Wayman Smith and for a while they lived on the Mann farm, now partially covered by water.

Mrs. Smith is the last "Real Daughter" in Bell County and one of only six in Texas.

## Norse god in Gray

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until Jubal Early took over. In 1864 in an effort to draw off pressure from Petersburg, Lee sent Early to the Valley. Rodes saw action there and also as Early made a threat against Washington, D.C.

At the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Winchester, on September 19, 1864, Rodes was hit by a shell fragment behind the ear and died on the battlefield. Later General Early would say of Rodes, he "was a most accomplished, skillful and gallant officer, upon whom I placed great reliance."

Rodes was buried in Presbyterian Cemetery in Lynchburg, Virginia.

## Sharpshooters

*(Continued from page 2)*

first battalion of sharpshooters and later in each brigade of his division.

In early 1864 General Robert E. Lee liked what Rodes had done and adopted Rode's concept for the entire Army of Northern Virginia, mandating that each infantry brigade field a sharpshooter battalion. They played an important and sometimes pivotal role in many battles and campaigns in 1864 and 1865. By the end of the war the sharpshooters were experimenting with tactics that would become standard practice fifty years later.