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*November 2022*

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## **License Plate Travels to Fort Redmond**



*This battlefield supporter traveled to the site of Fort Redmond and the Red River Blockhouse No. 1 in Adams, Tennessee.*

The Edgefield and Kentucky Railroad were vitally important for transporting soldiers and supplies. Confederate forces constructed Fort Redmond to protect and defend the railroad bridge a mile northwest of Adams, near the confluence of the Red River and the Elk Fork Creek. The dense woods there provided firewood, lumber and structures and natural shelter in the winter months.

With the fall of Forts Henry and Donelson in February 1862, the Confederates abandoned Fort Redmond, and Union troops occupied the area. The Federals also recognized the value of these railroad and river fortifications. They restored the bridges and established Red River Blockhouse No. 1 to secure the trestle and the rails that cross the Red River. The wooden structure was constructed of heavy timber, two feet thick, designed to withstand attack by light weapons. The trestle at Red River was 90 feet high and over 1800 feet long.

The Confederates first attacked and recaptured the fort in early 1862. Colonel Woodward of the 2nd Kentucky cavalry, with approximately 60 men, advanced on the fort and called on the Federal commander to surrender. The Federal commander, who had more than 80 soldiers within the fortifications laughed at this order, which so angered Woodward that the "little red-headed colonel"

as he was called (he was reputedly only 5'6"), appealed to local civilians for assistance in taking the fort. Two weeks later, with a scratch force of 120 men, most of his recruits being farm boys armed with squirrel guns, Woodward returned. He first sent another message to the Federal commander to surrender, or the Confederates would storm the fort and take no prisoners. When the Federal commander again laughed at him, Woodward and his men attacked. After they had taken part of the breastworks, the Federal commander heeded Woodward's call to surrender and raised the white flag.

*August 22 - The Southern Calvary 120 in number under Col. Woodard attacked the Federals 80 in number and after a short skirmish captured them all, released them on parole and burnt the balance of the bridge."*



Today, the remaining blockhouse earthwork, railroad cut, five limestone bridge abutments and the original railroad grade, is an important part of Tennessee's Civil War heritage and is the only known extant blockhouse site remaining that was constructed to defend the Louisville & Nashville Railroad. This small blockhouse site in Robertson County is a significant and tangible reminder of a once formidable Civil War defensive network.



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*The Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association preserves and interprets Tennessee's Civil War Battlefields and their contributing landscapes for present and future generations.*

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