

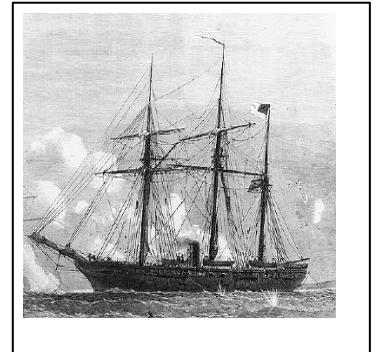
The Admiral's Log

Sons of Confederate Veterans

1211 Government St., Mobile, AL 36604

Raphael Semmes Camp 11

February 2012



Dear Compatriots and Friends of Camp 11,

I certainly hope that this edition of the Admiral's Log finds all of you doing well.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who attended and participated in our Lee-Jackson salute. The weather was not perfect but the atmosphere was mighty fine.

February is black history month. Like anything else mandated by the Federal government it is generally one sided. Therefore a portion of this edition of the Log will be dedicated to the Forgotten Confederate Soldier, the blacks who stood shoulder to shoulder with our white ancestors in defense of the South.

Our next meeting will be on February 27th at the Admiral Semmes Hotel. The meeting starts at 7pm. We hope to see all of you there.

Let us continue to pray for our camp and our members.

Your Humble Servant,
Terry W. "Beetle" Bailey
Editor, The Admiral's Log
Semmes Camp 11, SCV
Mobile, Alabama

Minutes from the Camp Meeting on January 30th
The meeting was called to order by Commander Ringhoffer.
Invocation was given by Chaplain Steve Kennedy.
Pledges were led by Commander Joe Ringhoffer.

Compatriot Joe DuPree brought the program. The program focused on four elements. They were the damage to Obelisk at Confederate Rest, granite benches to be placed at Confederate Rest, power cleaning 1100 headstones prior to Confederate Memorial Day, and the land containing Ft. McDermott with additional acreage possibly coming from the Fuller family. If anyone can assist with power cleaning, please call Joe at 421-0491.

Arston Grant also brought three of his weapons from his collection. Members asked questions about the weapons during the ten minute break.

Following the break, Commander Ringhoffer reconvened the meeting:

1. Boatswain, Tom Root brought a reading from Admiral Semmes reading. In it the Admiral reported on the events of shore leave at the Cape of Good Hope. Several men abandoned ship and others were recruited.
2. Tom also has published a new book Sons of Pride.
3. Darrell Neese was absent because he had knee replacement surgery on Friday.
4. Thanks were given to those who participated and attended the Lee-Jackson Salute at Confederate Rest.
5. Confederate Memorial Day will be scheduled by the February meeting.
6. Adjutant Rodgers thanked Boatswain Tom Root for taking notes for the November and December meetings.
7. Mobile will be recommended as a host city for the 2015 convention. The decision will be made during the convention this summer which will be in Murfreesboro, TN.
8. A battle flag measuring 9.5 feet by 18.5 feet was reasonably bought.
9. Help will be needed in placing headstones at ten unmarked graves in the county.
10. Paymaster Christmas reported we are currently 126 strong.
11. The sign and lighting by the statue of Admiral Semmes is being redone. We will follow up with plantings, etc.
12. Paymaster Christmas reported membership cards will be mailed in the next couple of weeks.
13. Chaplain Kennedy reported on the birth of his sixth grandchild.

New Business:

Alan Blair and Mitchell Powell were both unanimously approved for membership.

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Adjutant Rodgers.

Black History Month Confederate Style

During the early 1900's many members of the United Confederate Veterans (UCV) advocated awarding former slaves rural acreage and a home. There was hope that justice could be given those slaves that were once promised " forty acres and a mule " but never received any. In the 1913 Confederate Veteran magazine published by the UCV, it was printed that this plan "If not Democratic, it is ...[the] Confederate" thing to do. There was much gratitude toward former slaves, which "thousands were loyal, to the last degree", now living with total poverty of the big cities. Unfortunately, their proposal fell on deaf ears on Capitol Hill..... During the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1913, arrangements were made for a joint reunion of Union and Confederate veterans. The commission in charge of the event made sure they had enough accommodations for the black Union veterans, but were completely surprised when unexpected black Confederates arrived. The white Confederates immediately welcome their old comrades, gave them one of their tents, and "saw to their every need". Nearly every Confederate reunion including those blacks that served with them, wearing the gray..... The first military monument in the US Capitol that honors an African-American soldier is the Confederate monument at Arlington National cemetery. The monument was designed in 1914 by Moses Ezekiel, a Jewish Confederate. Who wanted to correctly portray the "racial makeup" in the Confederate Army. A black Confederate soldier is depicted marching in step with white Confederate soldiers. Also shown is one "white soldier giving his child to a black woman for protection".- source: Edward Smith, African American professor at the American University, Washington DC. [Source: Web page of the Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith SCV Camp]

It has been estimated that over 65,000 Southern blacks were in the Confederate ranks. Over 13,000 of these, "saw the elephant" also known as meeting the enemy in combat. These Black Confederates included both slave and free. The Confederate Congress did not approve blacks to be officially enlisted as soldiers (except as musicians), until late in the war. But in the ranks it was a different story. Many Confederate officers did not obey the mandates of politicians, they frequently enlisted blacks with the simple criteria, "Will you fight?" Historian Ervin Jordan, explains that "biracial units" were frequently organized "by local Confederate and State militia Commanders in response to immediate threats in the form of Union raids". Dr. Leonard Haynes, an African-American professor at Southern University, stated, "When you eliminate the black Confederate soldier, you've eliminated a part of the history of the South."

Holt Collier: My Favorite Black Confederate Soldier

Holt Collier was born into slavery in 1846 and was the slave of Howell Hinds. Hinds County is named after Howell's father, Gen. Thomas Hinds. At a very

early age, Holt demonstrated his marksmanship with the rifle. At the age of 10, he killed his first Black Bear which would be one of over 3000 killed by Holt. At the outbreak of the War for Southern Independence, Holt's master and son left for the War after giving him his freedom papers and being told he was too young to fight and to remain on the plantation. Holt disobeyed his master by running away from the plantation, stowing away on a riverboat and joining Howell and his son in Memphis, TN. Holt, by choice, joined the 9th Texas Brigade serving in Company I throughout the War. During Reconstruction, Holt was accused and acquitted for the alleged murder of Captain James King by a military tribunal in Vicksburg. Holt left the state on advice given by William A. Percy of Greenville going to Texas working as a cowboy on the ranch of his former commander, Sullivan Ross, future Governor of Texas. Upon the murder of his former master, Holt returned to Greenville for his funeral and remained in Greenville for the rest of his life. Holt became nationally known in 1903 as the guide for the Teddy Roosevelt Bear Hunt of that year. This hunt gave rise to the "Teddy Bear" when Teddy refused to shoot a bear captured by Holt and tied to a tree. Holt lived to the age of about 90, passing from this life on August 1, 1936. Holt was buried on August 3 in Live Oak Cemetery which is located on the old Plumridge Plantation where Holt grew-up and hunted black bear. [Source: Mississippi Division, SCV]

In late August 1868, General Nathan Bedford Forrest gave an interview to a reporter. Forrest said of the black men who served with him: ...these boys stayed with me...and better Confederates did not live.

Black Confederate Nim Wilkes once said:

I was in every battle General Forrest fought after leaving Columbia...I was mustered out at Gainesville (Alabama, May 1865).

There were a large number of black Confederates that attended United Confederate Veterans meetings during the post-war era. This shows that black Confederates were held in high esteem by Confederate veterans because their application had to be approved by the white members. There were 285 black Tennesseans who applied for pensions after the war. The State of Tennessee honored these claims. The Federal government, however, would not acknowledge their service with the Confederacy.

Source: Civil War and Georgia by Dixiemom

www.angelfire.com/ga3/confederaterebe

Some Confederate Humor

An explanation of the WBTS according to Granny Clampett: "It was the war between the Americans and the Yankees." [Ole Granny knew the truth!]

A Sesquicentennial Moment

During the month of February, 1862, the Yankee army campaigned against Forts Henry and Donelson. By the end of the month both forts will be in the hands of the enemy. On Saturday, February 22, 1862, Jefferson Davis was inaugurated as President of the CSA.

A Confederate Birthday

John Brown Gordon was one of Georgia's most renowned political and military figures of the 19th century. He was born on the banks of the Flint River in Upson County on February 6, 1832. As a child he moved to northwest Georgia [Walker County] where his father owned a coal mine. Gordon attended the University of Georgia where he was an outstanding student. For some inexplicable reason he dropped out before graduating. When the WBTS started he was the manager of his father's coal mine. Even with no formal military training he organized a Georgia company of mountain men known as the "Raccoon Roughts" and by the end of the war he was a major general. General Gordon was also a favorite of General Lee. As a combat leader he was bold and had an uncanny ability to inspire his troops to amazing feats of bravery and sacrifice. At the Battle of Antietam Gordon was wounded five times. After the war General Gordon returned to Atlanta and was involved in politics and business. He worked tirelessly to thwart the effects of Reconstruction. General Gordon was the first commander of the UCV and while visiting his son in Miami, Florida, he died on January 9, 1904. General Gordon is buried in Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery.[Source: New Georgia Encyclopedia]

WBTS Usage

Lamppost: An artillery shell glimpsed while in flight.

Land sickness: Among sailors, this was an acute longing to feel solid ground under one's feet. [Source: The Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage by Webb Garrison]

Upcoming Events

Feb. 24-26: Battle of Texas Hospital in Quitman, Mississippi

March 3 & 4: Blakeley Symposium

March 9-11: Battle of Cuba Station in Gainesville, Alabama

March 17-18: Skirmish at Bashi Creek, an 1812 event at Ft. Mims in Tensas, Alabama

March 30 - April 1: 150th Commemoration reenactment at Shiloh

April 15: Ft. Blakeley SCV Camp Confederate Memorial Service at 2pm in the Point Clear Cemetery

April 20-22: 150th Commemoration reenactment at Ft. Jackson, La. Ft. Jackson is on the west bank south of New Orleans.

April 27–29: Reenactment of the Battle of Selma.

April 28: Confederate Memorial Service at Beauvoir, 2pm. The flag of the 43rd Mississippi Infantry Regiment will be viewed by the public for the first time since its return to Mississippi.

Semmes Camp Confederate Memorial Service: To be announced at our February meeting.

Reflections from the Editor's Desk

Recently I was assigned a job in Perry County, Mississippi [Richton]. I made a bee-line for the job, i. e. 65 and 70 miles per hour. After I had completed the job I took a much slower pace back to Mobile. In other words I had the cruise control locked in on 50 miles per hour. I wanted to soak in the beauty of a late winter's day on the return trip.

My first stop was at the Leaf River Bridge in Beaumont. I dropped the tailgate where I indulged in my lunch. As I was sitting there I watched a fox squirrel going about his busy routine. I continued to sit there and in a few minutes I noticed something moving through the woods. I sat quietly and in a short time I could see the object of my attention. It was ole Tom Turkey and two of his lady friends. It was truly a pleasant experience watching some of God's creatures living up to His idea of creation.

In spite of the fact that it was a late winter day you could smell spring in the air. Pear trees and azaleas and butter cups are blooming also. It is amazing how full your senses are when you stop long enough to allow creation to soak in.

After I got back on the road a crazy notion hit me. I have been driving up and down US 98 for thirty years or more. Many times I have passed a sign on 98 indicating that there is a community out in the woods called Neely. What the heck, lets go see Neely. Believe me there ain't much there. Three churches, an abandoned store building, and some kind of an abandoned factory are about all there is to Neely. Duck Hill, Mississippi, looks like a metropolis compared to Neely.

However, at the Washington Primitive Baptist Church [established in 1845] I noticed a cemetery. That did it for me. I knew some of my Confederate heroes had to be buried there. So I pulled up and proceeded to explore the cemetery. And yes I found the final resting place of three Confederates. Two served with the 17th Mississippi Cavalry and the other one did not have a unit listing on the monument.

Speaking of monuments, there was one in the cemetery that is my all-time favorite of all cemetery art. The monument has a weeping willow on it. Underneath the willow is an empty chair. For me that is the most touching symbol of death that I can imagine.

Yep, no doubt about it; I was blessed on that day.

Best regards,
Terry W. "Beetle" Bailey
Mobile, Alabama

Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans

To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit 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 which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals 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.

**Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee
Commander-General
United Confederate Veterans
New Orleans, 25 April 1906**