

# The Admiral's Log

Sons of Confederate Veterans

1211 Government St., Mobile, AL 36604

Raphael Semmes Camp 11

March 2012



Dear Friends and Compatriots of Camp 11,

We certainly hope this edition of the Log finds all of you doing well. I have a lot of information to impart to you in this newsletter, so I will keep my greeting brief.

None the less let me take this opportunity to encourage you to attend our next meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> at the Admiral Semmes Hotel. The meeting will start at 7pm.

Finally, I implore you to continue to pray for our camp, its members, and our nation's military and the nation itself. I do not believe our country ever needed our prayers more than what is needed now.

Your Humble Servant,  
Terry W. "Beetle" Bailey  
Editor, The Admiral's Log

## Camp Meeting Minutes from our February Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Commander Joe Ringhoffer.  
The invocation was given by Assistant Chaplain Sid Phillips, III.  
The pledges to the flags were led by Quartermaster Darrell Neese.  
Recognitions:

1. Mitchell Powell was recognized as a new member attending his first meeting. He was presented with his membership pin.

2. Powell Hamlin was recognized as attending his first meeting.

3. Tom Godwin was welcomed as he has been traveling to Tennessee almost weekly since the death of his father. Compatriot Edgar Hughes presented the program for the evening. Although his presentation centered on his Confederate ancestor, Edgar took time to thank Commander Ringhoffer who helped Edgar with the research which was required to meet membership requirements. Edgar's ancestor, Professor Isaiah E. Allen was called into duty in 1863. His primary focus was hunting down deserters in lower Alabama. He was captured and imprisoned at Ft. Massachusetts on Ship Island just south of Biloxi. Following his parole he returned to Escambia County, FL, where he continued as a leading educator.

Lt. Commander Bailey reported that on this day in history the CSS Alabama captured a ship.

New Business:

1. Commander Ringhoffer and Compatriot DuPree are planning the presentation to bring the 2015 convention to Mobile. Anyone who wished to join them please let Commander Ringhoffer know. The presentations will be made the day prior to the National Convention in Murfreesboro this summer.

2. April 15, 2:00pm, Confederate Memorial Day event at Confederate Rest.

3. Paymaster Christmas reported that membership cards are in the mail.

4. Lt. Commander Bailey reported on the reenactment at Quitman last weekend. There will be an Alabama Division meeting on March 10. Steve Ellison is absent tonight because his father-in-law is hospitalized and his condition is serious. If your email address is incorrect please let him, Commander Ringhoffer or Adjutant Rodgers know. The symposium at Blakeley is this coming weekend. It begins Saturday morning at the church across the road and the cost is \$35.00 for the weekend. Confederate Memorial Day will be observed at Beauvoir on April 28; the highlight of the day will be the return of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Mississippi Infantry flag from Illinois.

5. Commander Ringhoffer will give a guided tour of the battleground at Spanish Fort on April 12. Planned for the residents of Westminster Village, please let Joe know of any tidbits of information you may have about the siege and the events surrounding the Yankee attack there.

6. Quartermaster Neese, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery, reported on both David Mader and Art Green. Both do not feel well enough to attend tonight's meeting.

7. Compatriot DuPree reported that this Confederate Memorial Day commemoration marks 150 years since the City of Mobile set aside the plot of land known as Confederate Rest in Magnolia Cemetery. Joe reported that 231 headstones have been power washed and asked for more volunteers so that all

the headstones will be cleaned by April 13. Also he and Commander Ringhoffer hope to soon map out and clear a trail up to the top of Ft. McDermott.

Old Business:

There being no old business the meeting was adjourned by a closing prayer from Assistant Chaplain Sid Phillips, III.

Respectfully submitted,  
William P. Rodgers, Adjutant

### Camp 11 News

The event in Quitman was an absolute success. Claude Turberville and I, along with Matilda, attended the event. We used Matilda during the reenactment, at the night artillery fire, and at the memorial service. I had the honor of being the keynote speaker at the memorial service. My speech was based on the writings of Pvt. Carlton McCarthy about the characters you would find around a Confederate campfire. The ceremony was truly wonderful and my speech was well received by the attendees. Our hosts for the event, the City of Quitman, were very gracious and the venue was beautiful. The venue was at Archusa Water Park.

On March 4<sup>th</sup> Stephen Ellison and I joined several of our reenactor friends for a program at Blakeley Historic Park. This was in conjunction with the battlefield tour for the Blakeley Symposium.

On March 10<sup>th</sup> Claude attended the annual reenactment at Gainesville, Alabama.

On March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> I escorted Matilda to Ft. Mims for the first annual Ft. Montgomery/Bashi Creek skirmish. This event was organized to commemorate the War of 1812 in this area. Some outstanding pictures of Matilda being fired have been posted on Facebook. We did a night fire and she was quite impressive.

Compatriot Ellison and I are now making plans to attend the 150<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the Battle of Shiloh. At this event we will portray the 8<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry. We are really looking forward to this event and certainly will enjoy visiting with so many of our friends who will also be in attendance at the event.

### Alabama Division News

On Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, I attended the annual meeting of the Alabama Division Executive Committee.

There were 28 camps represented at the Executive Committee meeting. We learned that funding for Confederate Memorial Park is safe for now. You can rest assured that some of the legislators on Goat Hill will come after that

funding again. Hopefully we will always have the support to keep the hands of the politicians off of the funds for the park.

Speaking of funding, you can believe that the Alabama Department of Archives and History love the Alabama Division. Over the years, through the sales of SCV car tags, our division has contributed over \$150,000 to the preservation of Alabama Confederate flags.

Our annual Division Reunion will be held at Guntersville State Lodge on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Donnie Kennedy will be our speaker for the occasion. The ladies will be given a tour of several historic homes in the area. After the awards banquet we will have a Confederate Ball. Period attire is not required but encouraged. For a discounted room rate you must have your reservation in by May 1<sup>st</sup>. This information will be available on the division web site as well as the Alabama Confederate.

The Division Webmaster encouraged us to start posting events on the division web site. Division Chaplain, Dr. Baker, reminded us to make him aware of deceased members. Dr. Baker sends condolences to the family of deceased members on behalf of the Alabama Division.

One of the most interesting reports was about the cemetery of the 10<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry in Bristow Station, Virginia. This cemetery was virtually lost to time. A minister from Virginia wrote to several Alabama newspapers about the cemetery in the 1880s. Recently the Boy Scouts, with the help of the Prince William County Foundation, has taken on this project. There are approximately 60 to 100 men buried in unmarked graves in this cemetery. Most died of disease but several were killed at the Battle of Drainsville. Our division has donated \$5000 to this project. Furthermore we are shipping a stone from Alabama that will be carved into a monument for this cemetery. There will be a dedication ceremony for the cemetery on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012. We are all grateful to the folks of Virginia for their noble effort in preserving the final resting place of our Alabama heroes.

Compatriot Jimmy Hill also encouraged division members to submit articles to the Alabama Confederate, the newsletter for the division.

During the meeting of the Division Executive Committee most of the time was spent on discussion and approval of funding for various projects being undertaken by division camps. One of the grant requests went to the Blakeley Camp of Baldwin County. Our friends in the Blakeley Camp have worked tirelessly to restore the Confederate Rest section of the Point Clear Cemetery. By all means, if you are in the Point Clear area, go by and see the wonderful work they have done there.

Confederate Humor from the archives of Lewis Brasell

The world is made up of two types of people; those who are Southerners and those who wish that they were.

## A Sesquicentennial Moment

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1862, the CSS Virginia steamed out of Norfolk, under the command of Franklin Buchanan, and attacked Union vessels at Hampton Roads. The Virginia was formerly the USS Merrimac and had been partially destroyed. The Confederates repaired the ship, fitted it with 4 inch thick plates of sloped iron, and renamed it the CSS Virginia. When she set upon the Union fleet at Hampton Roads the Virginia destroyed two of the Yankee vessels. However that evening a new player arrived and on the 9<sup>th</sup> naval surface warfare would enter a new age.

When the Virginia returned on the 9<sup>th</sup> she was met by an ironclad that looked like a tin can sitting on a plank. The USS Monitor had made a stormy passage from New York and was poised to challenge the Virginia. Over the next four hours the two ships pounded each other with cannon fire. By the end of the day they had fought to a draw. On this day the age of sail powered wooden vessels came to an end.

Two months later the CSS Virginia was destroyed by her crew to prevent the vessel from falling into the hands of the enemy. The design of the Monitor made her well suited for river operations. However she was not suited for the open seas. On December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1862 she sunk off of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, in stormy seas. Sixteen out of sixty-two crewmen were lost in the sinking of the Monitor.

{Source: 1400 Days, the US Civil War Day by Day by Bishop, Drury, & Gibbons  
The Civil War Day by Day by Phillip Katcher}

## Confederate Birthdays

Hiram Bronson Granbury was born in Copiah County, Mississippi, on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1831. He moved to Texas in the early 1850's and became a lawyer. He served as a judge and on the local board of supervisors. During the WBTS he was captured at Ft. Donelson and later exchanged in time to serve during the Vicksburg Campaign. He also served at Chattanooga, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, and the Atlanta Campaign. During the disastrous Battle of Franklin he was one of six generals killed in the battle. Granbury was buried near Franklin and on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1893, he was reinterred at Granbury, Texas. His wife, Fannie Sims Granbury [1838-1863], is buried in Mobile's Magnolia Cemetery.

## WBTS Usage

Cannonade: a barrage of cannon fire.

Jewelry attached: a prisoner having an iron ball and chain attached to a leg or having been "double chained" with both legs so confined.

Oysters: a Southern dish made of course corn meal, eggs, and butter.

{Source: The Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage by Webb Garrison}

### Quotes of the Heroes

“He who feels no pride in his ancestors is unworthy to be remembered by his descendants.” Maj. David F. Boyd, 9<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry Regiment.

### Upcoming Events

March 30<sup>th</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup>: 150<sup>th</sup> Commemoration reenactment at Shiloh, Tenn.

April 15<sup>th</sup>: Confederate Memorial at Magnolia Cemetery

April 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>: 150<sup>th</sup> commemoration reenactment at Ft. Jackson, La.

April 28<sup>th</sup>: Mississippi SCV Division Confederate Memorial at Beauvoir

April 29<sup>th</sup>: Confederate Memorial service in Clarke County, Ala.

## **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**