

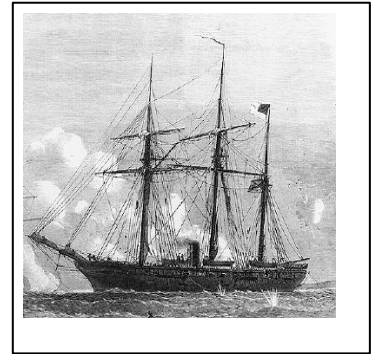
# The Admiral's Log

Sons of Confederate Veterans

1211 Government St., Mobile, AL 36604

Raphael Semmes Camp 11

August 2012



Dear Friends and Compatriots of Camp 11,

Greetings from Camp 11. The summer season is almost gone. I hope that all of you found time to visit with friends and family over the past few summer months. I for one have lost track of time. It seems like just yesterday we sent out the July newsletter and now it's time to do it again. So, sit back and enjoy the read.

Sadly I must report that two of our compatriots suffered through a time of loss since the last edition of The Log. Commander Ringhoffer lost his father and Compatriot Earl Bailey lost his mother. We extend our hearts and prayers to our compatriots and their families during this sad season of life.

I must also take this time to offer condolences from our camp to the family of John Charles McDonald. Mr. McDonald was 76 years old and the last "Real Son" in Georgia. His father, James Malachi McDonald, joined the 4<sup>th</sup> Georgia Cavalry at the age of 13. We certainly mourn the passing and commemorate the honorable heritage of John C. McDonald and that of his parents. As we lose more of our heroes we must redouble our efforts at preserving the Heritage.

I must commend the members of our camp in their effort to provide entertaining and informative programs over the past year. I am happy to say that the last five months of the year is booked for camp speakers and activities. At this point I want to encourage our membership to step up and provide the camp with a presentation. I would also request that if you know someone who is interested in making a presentation to please let Commander Ringhoffer or I know. We can all be proud of the fact that our camp has consistently provided our meetings with quality programs. Let's strive to keep up the good work.

On August 11<sup>th</sup> I spent the day at Beauvoir. We were there to plan Beauvoir's Fall Muster Reenactment. I was also happy to attend the summer picnic of the Sam Davis Camp. In the process I also got an opportunity to tour the nearly completed Jefferson Davis Presidential Library. It is truly a magnificent building and a wonderful monument to our beloved President. Yes sir that was a good day. Good fellowship with many dear compatriots and walking the grounds of Beauvoir makes for a perfect Confederate Day!

By the time that many of you receive this edition of The Log several camp members will be participating in the 199<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Reenactment of the Ft. Mims Massacre. Once again I will

have to suffer an inglorious death at the hands of the great Creek warrior, Chief Claude "Running Mouth" Turberville. I think we have about talked Stephen Ellison into coming for the killin'. Claude needs all the victims he can get. If you have never been to the Ft. Mims reenactment, I encourage you to do so. Good Lord willin' and the Creeks don't rise we'll see you there on August 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>.

Compatriot Wallace Mason will be the speaker at our meeting on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Wallace is a member of the Sam Davis Camp in Biloxi and will make a presentation about artillery. As a part of his presentation he will display examples of WBTS artillery shells. Come to this meeting and enjoy the program as well as our camp's fellowship.

Once again I encourage you to continue to pray for each other as well as our camp. As the church sign said, let us keep up with our "knee-mail".

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

#### Minutes

Admiral Semmes, Camp 11  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
30 July 2012

The meeting was called to order by Commander Joe Ringhoffer.

The invocation was given by Chaplain Steve Kennedy.

The pledges to the flags were led by Cmdr. Ringhoffer.

Several guests were recognized.

#### Program:

The program was given by David Bagwell of Fairhope. His program was centered on Harry Maury and his many escapades during and after the War of Northern Aggression.

Cmdr. Ringhoffer announced a new SCV award, the Graves Award, that he presented to Quartermaster Darrell Neese for his many years of dedication and hard work at Confederate Rest. A standing ovation followed!

#### Break:

Following the break, Boatswain Tom Root read a selection from Admiral Semmes in which the Admiral spoke of the right of the original colonies to secede from England and voluntarily join together. He maintained that the states of the CSA had the same right to secede and voluntarily join together.

Paymaster Charlie Christmas reported that membership dues are being accepted.

Commander Ringhoffer reported that the 2015 national convention will be held in Richmond. Dallas protested the decision and almost won the protest which would have opened the floor to deciding between Dallas or Mobile.

Commander Ringhoffer will be convening a nominating committee to bring a slate of officers. The slate will be presented at the November meeting.

He shared a list of goals for the next three years and created several new committees. They include the following:

Camp Awards: Compatriot Dustin Marshall  
Dolly Bridge project: Compatriot Stephen Ellison  
Fort McDermott: Compatriot Joe DuPree  
Confederate Rest Monument: Compatriot Darrell Neese  
Camp Website: Compatriot Joe LoCicero  
Spanish Fort Battlefield markers: Compatriot Kirk Barrett  
Bridge signage over the Tensaw River: Compatriot Ken Stanton.

Lt. Cmdr. Beetle Bailey reported on a Confederate soldier from North Carolina who predicted that our first amendment right of freedom to worship would be abridged by a strong central government in five to eight generations. He reported on the activities of the SW Brigade.

Chaplain Steve Kennedy reported on the ill and the elderly who have difficulty in attending the meetings.

Quartermaster Darrell Neese then asked for prayers for our Commander and his family as they are coping with the impending death of his father.

New Business:

The application for membership from John Toomer was approved unanimously.

Commander Ringhoffer presented the Certificate of Membership to Compatriot Tim Hughes.

There being no further business the meeting closed in prayer led by Chaplain Kennedy.

Respectfully submitted,  
William P. Rodgers, Adjutant

## The War Between the States and Photography

We all understand the effect of the industrial revolution on the technology of war. The effect of Matthew Brady's photography changed the face of warfare as indicated in the following quote from the New York Times.

"The dead of the battle-field come up to us very rarely, even in dreams. We see the list in the morning paper at breakfast, but dismiss its recollection with the coffee. Mr. Matthew Brady has done something to bring us the terrible reality and earnestness of the war. If he has not brought bodies and laid them in our door-yards and along our streets, he has done something very like it."

- The New York Times

## A Sesquicentennial Moment, August, 1862

August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1862: Lincoln issues a new call for 300,000 nine-month volunteers due to the fact that his call in July was a failure. In spite of the manpower shortage he refused to accept two black regiments raised in Indiana.

August 9<sup>th</sup>, 1862: Battle of Cedar Mountain

August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1862: John Hunt Morgan's raiders capture Gallatin, Tennessee.

August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1862: Santee Sioux uprising in Minnesota. Colonel H. H. Sibley, leading Federal troops, quells the uprising quite efficiently.

August 28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>, 1862: Battle of Second Manassas.

Source: 1400 Days, The US Civil War Day by Day [Bishop, Drury, and Gibbons]

## Confederate Birthdays

Theodore Washington Brevard was born in Tuskegee on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1835. He was educated at the University of Virginia and practiced law in Florida. At the beginning of the WBTS he organized the 11<sup>th</sup> Florida Regiment. On April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1865 he was captured by Custer's Cavalry and imprisoned at Johnson's Island until August of 1865. After the WBTS he returned to the practice of law in Florida. General Brevard died on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1882, and is buried at St. John's Episcopal Cemetery in Tallahassee, Florida.

## Civil War Usage

Highfly: One of the favorite mounts of Confederate General Jeb Stuart.

jambiers: Black leather leggings worn over gaiters by some Zouave units.

Knight of the Valley: A nickname for the wealthy and dashing Confederate General Turner Ashby.

Old Bush: A nickname for Confederate General Bushrod R. Johnson

Source: The Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage by Webb Garrison

## Quotes of the Heroes

From "War for What" by Francis W. Springer [pg. 121]

Before war came, life in the South was bright, a thing to be enjoyed and passed along to succeeding generations as a blessing. People were gracious, courtesy was spontaneous. There was an indescribable spirit that could be felt but not expressed. How could an invader whose job it was to kill and destroy be expected to sense such a spirit and such a relationship especially when he was determined to find just the opposite?

## Ten Rules for a Soldier

In 1898 Charles Swett of Vicksburg, Mississippi, faced the prospect of watching his son, Louie Chase Swett, go off to fight in the Spanish American War. The elder Swett knew from first hand experience the horrors of war. A veteran of the Civil War, Charles Swett had raised an artillery company in 1861, the Warren Light Artillery (Better known as Swett's Battery), and served with it until promoted to adjutant and inspector general of artillery for the Army of Tennessee in the spring of 1864.

To try and prepare his son for military service, Swett sent the boy a letter in which he laid down his "Rules for Government of a Soldier's Action." The following are the 10 rules that Swett counseled his son to follow while serving in the military:

1st. Always obey every command, and show at all times, proper respect for your officers, from the President down to the lowest Corporal in the company. No one can ever know how to command, until he knows how to obey.

2nd. Always be 'slow to anger', and ever be cheerful and considerate for the feelings of others; remembering that a company 'divided against itself' like a house mentioned in the Bible, cannot stand.

3rd. Never turn your back on an enemy unless you are ordered to do so, and in that case give a parting shot if you can, as it may put someone out of the ranks.

4th. Never complain if it can possibly be avoided; and should you have to eat rations cooked 24 hours before, remember that your father, during four years of war, often had to eat corn bread that had been cooked for three days, and at times, beef without bread or salt, and was glad to get it.

5th. Never fire your gun without being satisfied your shot will have effect, and not for the purpose of scaring someone, as the Chinese do. The stocks of all army guns [are] nearer straight than the guns you have used, therefore [have] the liability to shoot high.

6th. The primary object is not to kill in war, but to disable; the reason being, if a man is badly wounded, two will be required to carry him off; whereas, if he is killed, you get rid of only one man.

7th. Always aim low, as it will be better for your shot to strike the ground in front of an enemy, than to pass over his head. a ball striking the ground twenty yards in front of the line-of-battle will ricochet and may hit someone not above his shoulders, because of the fact that the angles of incidence and reflection are equal.

8th. When an order is given to you, never reply in order to discuss the case, but go, making every effort to succeed; dying in the effort if necessary.

9th. Never unnecessarily expose yourself, as it would be foolish to do so. If you are ordered to an exposed position, and one of great danger, go in your entire strength, and go in to win, without thinking of the consequences.

10th. Always 'do unto others as you would that others should do unto you' in your association with comrades, and be sure to do your duty to your God, your country, and your name, never failing as you go into battle, to invoke Divine protection in the little prayer I used on many fields of blood – 'HEAVENLY FATHER, WATCH OVER, BLESS AND PRESERVE US FROM HARM, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE, Amen.' Then go in, not only believing but knowing you are under the protection of 'One who doeth all things well'.

[Editor's note: Thanks to my friend, Charles Schmitz, for sharing this via internet. Truly some good advice from a Confederate hero.]

Some WBTS trivia and humor from the archives of Lewis Brasell

Maj. Gen. Thomas L. Rosser, CSA, was a man of strong opinions. When Gen. Sheridan [US] died in 1888, an ill-advised newspaperman in Kansas wrote to Gen. Rosser asking for a statement suitable to the occasion. The letter he received in return is a rare gem.

"You politely ask me to name the 'predominant military characteristic' of the late Gen. P. H. Sheridan. Gen. Sheridan is now dead --peace to his ashes-- but as I disliked him very much, I fear that I failed to see any high military virtues in him. To me he always appeared vulgar and coarse. I often met him while I was connected with the Northern Pacific Railroad, and saw that he was intemperate, and barbariously profane, and was neither great nor good." ]Source: "They Lie Forgotten by Mary E. Sergent{pg 179]

### **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**