

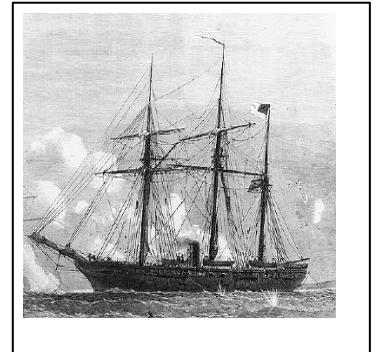
The Admiral's Log

Sons of Confederate Veterans

1211 Government St., Mobile, AL 36604

Raphael Semmes Camp 11

October 2012



Dear Friends and Compatriots of Camp 11,

Once again as I sit down to compose this newsletter I have to wonder what became of this month. Then I think back and realize I have been busier than a pair of jumper cables at a redneck funeral.

Just before our meeting last month we participated in a memorial service in Theodore. Then on October 14th we participated in a ceremony near the Dixie community of Escambia County, Alabama. It was a beautiful day for a service out in the Heart of Dixie. The ancestors of the soldier at Dixie had a most unique wreath for the grave. It was made from pine boughs and cotton. This was the ultimate tribute to that part of the world. Both of these services were held for members of the 15th Confederate Cavalry.

On the weekend of October 20th several of us were busy at regional reenactments. Claude Turberville attended the Reenactment of the Battle of Newton {Alabama}. On the same weekend Stephen Ellison, Jessie Taylor, Dustin Marshall, Matilda, and I attended the 26th Annual Fall Muster at Beauvoir.

Our camp banner was prominently displayed at the entrance to the reenacting area and near there we had our flag display. Both caught the attention of many spectators during the weekend. Matilda was busy all weekend. Not only did she participate in the battles but she also participated in two services during the weekend.

On Saturday morning we had a flag pole dedication ceremony in front of Beauvoir. Recently seven new flag poles were erected at Beauvoir and on the 21st the flags were raised for the first time. Matilda was a big part of this ceremony. Then on Sunday morning she participated in the Confederate Memorial service in the Beauvoir Cemetery. Our friends at Beauvoir are always glad to see Matilda.

One special treat for everyone at Fall Muster was the presence of President and Mrs. Verina Davis. J. W. Binion and his wife drove down from Kentucky to portray the First Family of the CSA. It was a pleasure to spend the weekend with Bro. Binion and his wife.

Another special moment of the weekend was a birthday party for our beloved friend, Compatriot Jessie Taylor. Mr. Jessie's huge Taylor pattern flag spent the weekend hanging off the porch of Beauvoir.

This coming weekend will be a busy one as well. On Saturday, October 27th we will attend the annual Pioneer Day at the Clarke County Museum in Grove Hill, Alabama. If you have never been to the Clarke County Museum, Saturday would be a good day to do so.

Sunday, October 28th, is a very special day. At 2pm in the Confederate Rest section of the Point Clear Cemetery we will participate in a Confederate re-interment/memorial service. Our friends of the Blakeley Camp are our hosts. Recently during some restoration work in the cemetery some human remains were inadvertently uncovered. The compatriots of Camp 1864 have given us the honor of being a part of a very special and unique service in which these remains will be returned to the ground at Confederate Rest in Point Clear.

And finally this month we have an exciting night planned for our camp meeting on October 29th. Our dear friend, Reverend Cecil Fayard, will be our camp speaker. Folks, if November is as busy and as much fun as October I do not know if I can stand it or not! REBEL YELL!!

In closing, I again exhort you to continue to pray for the sick of our camp. Also pray that our nation will be under God's care as we approach the election season. Pray for the strength and wisdom to protect, preserve, and defend our beloved Confederate heritage.

You humble servant.
Terry W. "Beetle" Bailey
Editor, Admiral's Log
Admiral Raphael Semmes Camp 11
Alabama Division, SCV

Minutes
Admiral Semmes, Camp 11
Sons of Confederate Veterans
24September2012

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 Lt. Cmdr. Bailey.

Because this meeting is the celebration of the Admiral's birthday, there is no program.

Oliver Semmes brought greetings to the camp and expressed appreciation for all we do to keep the memory of Admiral Semmes alive.

Commander Ringhoffer:

Efforts are underway to reproduce the china pattern found in the remains of the CSS Alabama. More details will follow.

A home for sale in Spanish Fort Estates that abuts the camp's land containing Ft. McDermott has a title issue because the owner encroached on camp land, even to the point of digging out part of the fort area and erecting a drive and shed. Also the driveway into the garage at the rear of the house encroaches on camp land. Unless a solution is found, the house cannot be sold because the driveway would be too short to meet code requirements.

Expectations are that another small parcel of land along the power lines leading into Spanish Fort Estates will also be donated soon to the camp.

A member of the McDermott family who lives in Tyler, TX, has requested to bring our program in February.

Lt. Cmdr. Bailey:

The completion of the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library is delayed because of construction issues with the bonding company.

Fall Muster at Beauvoir will be October 21-22. There are other events scheduled which conflict with those dates.

Following the successful memorial for James Madison Lundy, a protocol for memorial ceremonies is being developed.

Events for October include Ft. Gaines 10/13, Atmore 10/14, Grove Hill Pioneer Day 10/27, and Blakely Camp at Pt. Clear 10/28.

Cecil Fayard will speak at the next meeting of the camp on October 29.

Memorials Chairman Joe DuPree

The 1st National is flying at Confederate Rest.

The latest issue of the Confederate Veteran has an article on Ft. McDermott.

Collaboration with Boy Scout leaders is occurring regarding the work at Ft. McDermott.

Anyone with marble, granite or treated wood that can be used as signage, please let Joe know.

A request is being made of the State regarding historical assistance for Ft. McDermott.

Chaplain Steve Kennedy reported on those with special needs and prayer.

Boatswain Tom Root gave a reading Admiral Semmes autobiography. The selection centered on the preface. The Alabama was one of the first steam-powered warships and took on a persona of its own.

Anyone wishing to participate in the Alabama Wildlife Foundation cookout should contact Cmdr. Ringhoffer. The date is October 11.

An application for membership from David Cahill was approved unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,

William P. Rodgers, Adjutant

[A hearty thank you to our Adjutant for the good job he does recording the minutes.]

The Libation Ceremony

The absolute best part of a memorial service for me personally is the libation ceremony. During this part of a service reenactors come forward and share a symbolic drink of water with the one being memorialized.

The libation ceremony can be traced to ancient times when an offering of water was given to the gods or the spirits. One can even say that a libation ceremony occurred during the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. In the sixth hour of the crucifixion Christ was given a sponge and vinegar. As members of the SCV we are drawn to remember Richard Rowland Kirkland during libation ceremonies.

Kirkland was a 19 year old Confederate soldier with Company E, 2nd South Carolina Volunteer Infantry. On December 3, 1862, Kirkland was overcome by the painful cries of the wounded on the

battlefield at Marye's Heights near Fredericksburg, Maryland. On this horrible day, with the hesitant approval of his commanding officer and no flag of truce, Kirkland took to the battlefield to relieve the suffering of the dying and wounded soldiers. This hero carried as many canteens as possible and began to share them with the victims of the fight. Soon the firing ceased and Richard Rowland Kirkland has been forever remembered as the "Angel of Marye's Heights".

Recently I became familiar with the poem "The Same Canteen". This poem offers a moving depiction of the bond that occurs when a soldier shares his canteen. The poem appeared in the February, 1893, edition of "Confederate Veteran Magazine". It was written by Private Miles O'Rielly of the 47th New York Infantry. Miles O'Rielly was the pseudonym of Charles G. Halpine, a Union Army officer.

The Same Canteen

There are bonds of all sorts in this world of ours,
Fetters of friendship and ties of flowers,
And true lover's knots, I ween;
The girl and the boy are bound by a kiss,
But there's never a bond, old friend, like this,
We have drank from the same Canteen!

It was sometimes water, and sometimes milk,
And sometimes apple-jack "fine as silk;"
But whatever the tippie has been
We shared it together in bane or bliss,
And I warm to you, friend, when I think of this,
We drank from the same Canteen!

The rich and great sit down to dine,
They quaff to each other in sparkling wine,
From glasses of crystal and green;
But I guess in their golden potations they miss
The warmth of regard to be found in this,
We drank from the same Canteen!

We have shared our blankets and tents together,
And have marched and fought in all kinds of weather,
And hungry and full we have been;
Had days of battle and days of rest,
But this memory I cling to and love the best,
We drank from the same Canteen!

For when wounded I lay on the center slope,
With my blood flowing fast and so little hope
Upon which my faint spirit could lean;
Oh! then I remember you crawled to my side,
And bleeding so fast it seemed both must have died,
We drank from the same Canteen!

A Sesquicentennial Moment

October 2 – 4, 1862: The Battle of Corinth. 1423 heroes died at this battle.
October 8, 1862: Battle of Perryville, Kentucky.

October 9, 1862: J. E. B. Stuart takes 1800 troopers on a raid deep into enemy territory.

WBTS Usage

Emerald Light Infantry: A South Carolina militia unit made up entirely of Irishmen.

langrange: improvised canister shot made from dumping nails and other metal odds and ends into an empty shell. It was designed to tear sails and rigging of an opponent.

blind shell: a projectile with no charge, used for target practice.

Source: The Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage by Webb Garrison

Confederate Birthdays

Brigadier General Joseph Horrace Lewis was born in Glasgow, Kentucky on October 20th, 1824. Before and after the war he practiced law. During the Atlanta Campaign he took command of the Orphan Brigade [1st Kentucky Brigade]. At the end of the war he organized an escort for Jefferson Davis and surrendered at Washington, Georgia. After the war he returned to his law practice and continued to be a public servant for the citizens of Kentucky until 1898. Lewis died on July 6th, 1904, and is buried at Glasgow Municipal Cemetery.

WBTS Trivia

There were over 500 battles and engagements in Virginia during the WBTS.

As the Texas Brigade moved to plug a gap in the Confederate lines at Orange Plank Road General Lee remarked, "Hurrah for Texas. Texans always move them."

Confederate Lieutenant Harry Buford who was a company commander at First Manassas was actually a woman by the name of Loreta Valaques. She had entered the army disguised as a man.

Reflections from the Editor's Desk

Recently I witnessed a person as he turned his back on his Confederate heritage. This particular person has a famous Confederate ancestor. I was disappointed that this individual was more in tune with the politically correct liberal agenda than with the heritage of his ancestor.

I mention this because I want to take this opportunity to thank and commend the descendants of Admiral Semmes. The Semmes family has always been staunch defenders of the legacy of Admiral Semmes. As they have "stood fast" in this defense of the Admiral they have done so with dignity and class. We can all look to the Semmes family as an example of what it means to protect the heritage of our beloved ancestors.

Let us always be proud of the heritage that has been bestowed upon our camp with the name of Admiral Raphael Semmes. God bless the Semmes family.

Confederately yours,
Terry W. "Beetle" Bailey
Editor, Admirals Log
Semmes Camp 11

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**