

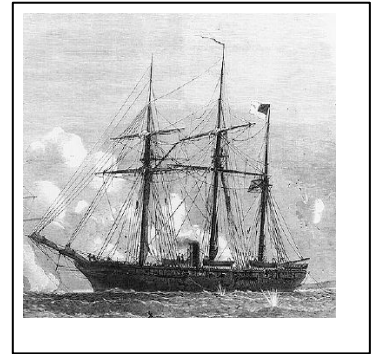
The Admiral's Log

Sons of Confederate Veterans

1211 Government St., Mobile, AL 36604

Raphael Semmes Camp 11

November 2012



Dear Friends and Compatriots of Camp 11,

What happened to November? It was here and now it is gone. I suppose spending a month of having Confederate fun would make any month pass by rather fast. It is our hope that all of you had a blessed Thanksgiving Holiday. Of course the best time during the holidays are those precious moments we get to spend with our families.

The month started with a trip to Tallassee, Alabama. The Tallassee Guards SCV Camp hosts an annual reenactment at Gibson's View Plantation. The venue is beautiful and the camp does a good job at making folks feel welcomed. The reenactment is a fund raiser to help preserve the Tallassee Armory buildings. After the battle on Saturday one of their members took us on a tour of the armory.

While at Tallassee we had our quarterly Division Executive Committee meeting. Several events are coming up in which the SCV and UDC want to help each other. These include January's tribute to General Lee and the state Confederate Memorial service in April. I have already committed Matilda to the Confederate Memorial Service in Montgomery in April.

On November 17th Jessie Smelly and I went to Ft. Gaines for the Thanksgiving Harvest living history event. It was a well-attended event and our hosts, the Augusta Jane Evans Ladies Auxiliary, provided us with a delicious traditional Thanksgiving lunch.

Then on November 18th I made a trip to Camp Moore in Tangipahoa, Louisiana, for their annual reenactment. Again this is a fund raiser type reenactment as Camp Moore is not supported by the state. Camp Moore was very supportive of our Beauvoir event in October and it was a pleasure to return the favor by attending their event. I played a Yankee at this event so on the way home I listened to a cd of a variety of different renditions of "Dixie". This was a huge help at removing the blue stain from my person. It was also good to get to visit with a bunch of our Mississippi and Louisiana SCV brethren.

On November 24th Claude Turberville, Matilda, and I made the trip to Laurel, Mississippi for the annual Christmas holiday opening of Landrums Country Village. This is a living history event that is hosted by our friends of the Jones County Rosin Heels SCV Camp. During the day we did three skirmishes for the spectators. Again I played a Yankee as well as Matilda. I am happy to report that

during each skirmish Claude killed me and returned Matilda to her rightful owners. Reenacting is the only hobby in the world that you can be killed by your friend and still be friends when it is over.

Before each skirmish Claude would ride over to our position and demand our surrender. Claude and I would get into a rather heated discussion about the need for us Yankees to surrender. In the course of the discussion I would sing the praises of Ole Abe. Then after each skirmish I would have to hide behind the bushes and wash out my mouth with some rot-gut whiskey!

Our host, Landrums, was giving the spectators rides on a wagon. As each load left I would inform them that I was a Yankee from the Federal government and I was there to help them. When the spectators began to laugh I would pull out my pistol and fire a shot over their heads. The spectators got a real kick out of this performance.

Some of our friends from the Rosin Heels Camp, who were all dressed as Confederates, would catch the wagon in the woods and try to rob the spectators. Being that they were dressed as Confederates I called them the Newt Knight Gang. They did not necessarily appreciate the comment but at least they saw the humor in it.

I also had a lot of fun with the kids at the event. I believe the kids there fired my musket more than I did during the event. Yes, we have been busy this month and it has been a real pleasure to try to present our beloved Heritage to the public.

Our next meeting is on November 26th and our speaker will be Ed Colvin. Ed is a member of the Blakely Camp and he will have a presentation about Brice's Crossroads.

And finally I ask that all of you continue to pray for the members of our camp. We have several who are sick and I know they need and appreciate our prayers.

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
29October2012

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 Commander Ringhoffer.

The speaker for the evening was Dr. Cecil Fayard, Jr. who has served the SCV in many capacities through the years. After several introductory anecdotes which brought much laughter, he spoke on the relationships between the families of George Washington and Robert Edward Lee. Dr. Fayard is residing in Gautier, MS.

Following the break the business session began.

Boatswain Tom Root gave a short history of Admiral Semmes. Originally from Maryland, he settled in Pensacola prior to the Mexican War. Eventually he moved across the state line and built a plantation

on the Perdido River which he named Prospect Hill. He fought both on sea and on land in the Mexican War. He renounced his commission at the outbreak of the War of Northern Aggression.

Paymaster Charlie Christmas reported that as of November 1, dues rise to \$57. He also has some flags to sell for \$10.00 each.

The date of the Christmas event at the Dew Drop Inn is Sunday night, December 16 at 6:00pm. Cost to be announced later.

Because of a movie being made in Magnolia Cemetery, the Union flag will fly during the filming.

Compatriot Bailey du Mont shared an article he found in some of his family papers reporting on an excursion UCV Camp #11 took on the Steamer Pleasure Bay on August 11, 1917. A copy is being placed in the archives.

Compatriot Joe LoCiero, who is a cousin of Len Patterson whose Sunday message is emailed to members of the camp, reported on Len. Joe is exploring web companies for hosting our site. He believes that GoDaddy may be the most reasonable for us.

Compatriot Dustin Marshall has put together a binder with all the awards that the SCV makes.

Compatriot Claude Turberville reported on the repair needs for the monument at Confederate Rest. He hopes the repairs will be completed soon.

Compatriot Joe DuPree reported on plans at Ft. McDermott. He has spoken with two BSA reps so far. Compatriot John Rather's son will build a foot bridge from the lower parapet to the berm. This will be an Eagle Scout project for him. Hopes are that another Eagle Scout will build some steps either at the front of the property or near the top of the berm. Also thanks were given to Compatriots Ellison, Bailey and Turberville for granite and limestone stock that can be used for signage at Ft. McDermott. Anyone who may have some stock or materials suitable for outdoor signage, please call Joe at 421-0491. Also the 1st National is flying at Confederate Rest.

Compatriot Joe DuPree brought the report of the nominations committee. Election will be at the November meeting for a two-year term. The following is the slate:

Commander:	Joe Ringhoffer
1st Lt Commander:	Terry Bailey
2nd Lt. Commander:	David Smithweck
Adjutant:	Bill Rodgers
Paymaster:	Charlie Christmas
Judge Advocate:	Ken Stanton
Quartermaster:	Darrell Neese
Boatswain:	Tom Root
Surgeon:	Sid Phillips, Jr.
Color Sergeant:	Steve Ellison
Sergeants-at-Arms:	Claude Turberville and Dustin Marshall
Chaplain:	Steve Kennedy
Assistant Chaplain:	Sid Phillips, III

Commander Ringhoffer thanked the committee for its work. He then reported that other than the out-building being moved out, he has no further knowledge of the sale of the house which is encroaching our land at Ft. McDermott. The Camp has granted access to the owner of the house for the existing driveway to the house. The grant also applies to any future owners of the house; however, the Camp still holds title to that land.

1st Lt. Commander Bailey reported on activities in the Brigade. They have been part of four memorial services for re-interment. Also the Fall Muster at Beauvoir was successful. He reported that seven flag poles have been erected, each flying a different flag.

2nd Lt. Commander David Smithweck shared information about two lithographs owned by the Museum of Mobile and which have been displayed in the DAR Richards House. Both of the lithographs are in dire need of restoration and preservation. The total cost for both of them is \$350.00. After several motions, the Camp voted to fund the entire \$350.00 and expressed hope that they will be displayed appropriately when the restoration is completed. The amended motion passed unanimously.

Commander Ringhoffer said a date needs to set for the Lee-Jackson Salute. Also we may have issues with our January 2013, meeting because of conflicts with Mardi Gras. He called for a motion accepting the report of the nominations committee. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned with the benediction offered by Chaplain Kennedy and the reading of the charge to the troops by 1st Lt. Commander Bailey.

Respectfully submitted,
William P. Rodgers, Adjutant

Confederate Revival by Robert Mestas from the Face Book page "Defending the Heritage".

The early months of the War saw the assembly of armies that consisted of thousands of young men that had never before been away from home. Army chaplains complained that "seductive influences of sin" and "legions of devils" infested the camps. Among the sins were "spirituous liquors," card playing, gambling, and profanity. Early in the war, one Confederate soldier said "if the South is overthrown, the epitaph should be 'died of whiskey.'"

Though there were provisions made for chaplains in the Confederate Army, their pay was lower than that of other Confederate officers, and that of chaplains in the Union Army. There were a lot of issues in the attempts to form a legitimate chaplain's corps in the Confederate Army. It is not known how many unpaid missionaries accompanied the army, and many pastors served as part-time missionaries. Conditions and provisions for chaplains improved when General Robert E. Lee took command in June 1862.

The beginning of the Great Revival appears to have started in the winter of 1862-1863 in Fredericksburg and the rest of the Lower Valley, and Chancellorsville, though its roots were earlier in the war. Some have narrowed it down to the first service performed at the Williams Street Methodist Church in Fredericksburg by the chaplain of the 17th Mississippi Infantry Regiment, of Barksdale's Brigade, Rev. William B. Owen. He was soon joined by privates Clairborne McDonald and Thomas West of the 13th Mississippi, and they appeared to be filling the fairly large church seven nights a week. It was written in a letter by Private William H. Hill of Company H, 13th Mississippi, that: "From 40 to 50 soldiers are at the mourner's bench every night" waiting to be "saved" from their sins.

J. William Jones, Confederate chaplain and author of "Christ in the Camp", notes that about the same time, similar occurrences were taking place in Trimble's Brigade, in the 12th and 44th Georgia Regiments, after the army's return from the Maryland Campaign.

The revival of 63' - 64' was not limited to enlisted men. It is well known that Generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson were both pious, devout men, but during this time many Confederate officers were baptized, including A.P. Hill on the battlefield of Second Manassas, and Dorsey Pender.

By the end of the war, it is estimated that 100,000 Confederate soldiers in the Army of Northern Virginia alone surrendered to the Lord.

And the revival was by no means limited to the army in the East. There were signs of this revival in the Army of Tennessee even before Longstreet's Corps joined it for the Chattanooga campaign, but the Spirit of revival surely came with Longstreet's men. Estimates are that another 50,000 men from the Western armies were baptized. General Braxton Bragg had been baptized in mid-1863.

After the Battle of Missionary Ridge, the Army of Tennessee moved to Dalton Georgia for winter quarters. The soldiers built many churches while there. During that time, General Leonidas Polk baptized Generals J. E. Johnston, William J. Hardee, and John Bell Hood. Hood, unable to kneel due to his amputated leg, supported himself on a crutch and bowed his head.

So what was the effect of the great revival? Literally thousands of new churches were founded throughout the South after the war, creating the "Bible Belt". By 1870, the number of churches and church membership had more than doubled from their number in 1860. I have read that there are more existing churches in the South that were founded from 1860 to 1870, than there are that were not founded during that period.

The newly found faith of the Southern people helped them through the horrible post-war period which included much of the population having died in the war, many thousands of men who were invalid or amputees due to wounds, not to mention the complete lawlessness of Radical Reconstruction. For those of you that believe, my answer to his question was: surely God's purpose for the Great Revival was to prepare the Southern people for what was to come to them for the next 17 years. Actually the next one hundred years.

A Sesquicentennial Moment

November 17th 1862: The CSS Alabama is fully equipped for action and sails into Martinique after crossing the Atlantic. The USS San Jacinto follows her and stands off Martinique in hopes of catching the Alabama. Then on the 18th the CSS Alabama gives the San Jacinto the slip and begins a cruise along the Atlantic Coast where she poses a considerable threat to Northern shipping.

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

WBTS Usage

Horse furniture: an inclusive term for all of the gear needed for horses.

Holy Joe: Slang for a chaplain.

Lead mine: a dead or badly wounded soldier with several wounds.

Source: The Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage by Webb Garrison

Confederate Birthdays

BG Claudius Wistar Sears was born on November 11th, 1817, in Peru, Massachusetts. He was an 1841 graduate of West Point. Sears resigned his commission in 1842 and began teaching at St. Thomas Hall in Holly Springs, Mississippi. [This is the same school where MG E. C. Walthall was educated.] At the beginning of the WBTS he enlisted in the 17th Mississippi Infantry Regiment where he was elected captain. Sears served in the ANV until December of 1862 when he was promoted to colonel and reassigned to the 46th Mississippi Infantry Regiment. He served the rest of the war in the Western Theater. On March 3rd, 1863, he was promoted to BG and assigned to French's Division of the AoT. During the Battle of Nashville he had a leg shot off of him. After the war he returned to Mississippi and taught mathematics and civil engineering at Ole Miss. Claudius Wistar Sears died on February 15th, 1881, and is buried at the St. Peter's Cemetery in Oxford, Mississippi.

Quotes from the WBTS

"Sirs, you have no reason to be ashamed of your Confederate dead; see to it they have no reason to be ashamed of you." Robert Dabney, Chaplain to Stonewall Jackson.

"Union General Piatt wrote in his book "Men Who Saved the Union" in 1887: "The true story of the late war has not yet been told. It probably never will be told. It is not flattering to our people; unpalatable truths seldom find their way into history.

How rebels fought the world will never know; for two years they kept an army in the field that girt their borders with a fire that shriveled our forces as they marched in, like tissue paper in a flame. Southern people were animated by a feeling that the word fanaticism feebly expresses. (Love of liberty expresses it.) For two years this feeling held those rebels to a conflict in which they were invincible.

The North poured out its noble soldiery by the thousands and they fought well, but their broken columns and thinned lines drifted back upon our capitol, with nothing but shameful disasters to tell of the dead, the dying, the lost colors, and the captured artillery. Grant's road from the Rapidan to Richmond was marked by a highway of human bones.

"We can lose five men to their one and win," said Grant. The men of the South, half starved, unsheltered, in rags, shoeless yet Grant's marches from the Rapidan to Richmond left dead behind him more men than the Confederates had in the Field!!!"

"When the South raised its sword against the Union's Flag, it was in defense of the Union's Constitution."

Confederate General John B. Gordon

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**