

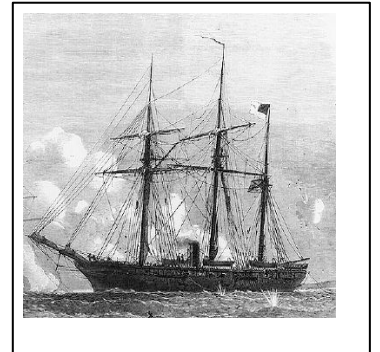
The Admiral's Log

Sons of Confederate Veterans

1211 Government St., Mobile, AL 36604

Raphael Semmes Camp 11

December 2012



Dear Friends and Compatriots of Camp 11,

Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Rebel Yell and Long Live Dixie! On behalf of Camp 11 we wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our fellowship at camp meetings is always fun and special. But I have to admit that our annual Christmas party is one of the special moments of the year. This year was no exception as we enjoyed our fellowship at the Dew Drop Inn. Powell Hamlin and his crew once again provided us with a meal that the Dew Drop is renowned for. I have to confess that I nearly hurt myself on those world famous Dew Drop hot dogs. We also owe a thank you to Compatriot Stephen Ellison for decorating the Dew Drop for our party. The flags are always a welcome sight at our events. I am also happy announce that we have retained the services of Ralph the Redneck Reindeer for next year's door prize portion of the Christmas party.

Our next camp function will be our annual Lee/Jackson Salute on January 20th at 2pm. This ceremony will be held at Confederate Rest in Mobile's Magnolia Cemetery. Please make every effort to support your camp on January 20th. Bring a friend and help us honor two of the greatest Southerners who ever lived.

We had reported a few weeks ago that Bro Cecil Fayard's wife was having surgery in Oxford, Mississippi. I am happy to report that she did well and is at home recovering. We also have several camp members with physical ailments. Please lift up these folks in your prayers. Let us also pray for the strength, wisdom, and courage to carry out the charge of Stephen D. Lee.

Best regards,

Terry W. "Beetle" Bailey

Editor, The Admiral's Log

Admiral Raphael Semmes Camp 11

Alabama Division, SCV

Mobile, Alabama

Minutes
Admiral Semmes, Camp 11
Sons of Confederate Veterans
26November2012

The meeting was called to order by Commander Joe Ringhoffer.

The invocation was given by Assistant Chaplain Sidney Phillips, III.

The pledges to the flags were led by 1st Lt. Commander Bailey.

Commander Ringhoffer introduced Curator Holly Jansen of the Mobile Museum. She thanked the Camp for donating funds to restore two lithographs owned by the Museum, one of which is of General Robert E. Lee. That item was on display at the meeting. Curator Jansen then presented the Camp with a certificate of appreciation. She offered private tours to members of the Camp to view items in the Museum's collection which are not displayed.

The speaker for the evening was Ed Colvin from Camp Blakeley. His topic, titled 'A Battle Won, A War Lost', was the Battle of Brice's Creek in Tupelo, Mississippi. Fought on 10 June 1864 between General Nathan Bedford Forrest and the invading union troops, the fight was a brilliant tactical win for the Confederacy. Union forces were driven all the way back to Memphis, Tennessee. Former Commander Toifel commented that Forrest should have been harassing the rear of Sherman's troops in Georgia instead.

Boatswain Tom Root read from Memoirs of Service Afloat by Raphael Semmes. He stated that the federal government is a creature of the states; that the states were sovereign and did not give up their sovereignty when they voluntarily ratified the US Constitution.

The annual Christmas Party is to be held at the Dew Drop Inn on Old Shell Road at 6:00pm on Sunday evening, December 16. Cost is \$15 per person. The next regular meeting will be on the last Monday night of January 2013.

The Lee-Jackson Salute will be at 2:00pm at Confederate Rest on 20 January 2013.

Compatriot Joe LoCicero is about to complete the new Camp website which probably will be up early in 2013.

Compatriot Edgar Hughes will act as liaison between the Camp and Elm Springs. He will handle correspondence.

Compatriot Kirk Barrett addressed the Camp. He discussed a proposal for seven plaques to be placed in or about Ft. McDermott. As a part of a two-mile driving tour, each plaque will explain the overall action and list each of the Confederate units which were assigned to the area near the plaque. At a cost of \$2,500 each, the total cost is \$17,500. The consensus of the Camp is the project ought to be pursued, including enlistment of the support of the new mayor of Spanish Fort, Michael McMillan. Several funding avenues were discussed, including the tapping of the Alabama Division for a percentage of the total cost. One comment is to phase the plaques in over a period of time, thereby spreading out the cost.

Lt. Commander Bailey spoke about the importance of participation in 'living history' events.

Commander Ringhoffer mentioned ongoing discussion with the City of Mobile regarding replacing the sign at the Raphael Semmes statue on lower Government Street. The last sign, which credited Camp 11's involvement in the project, was stolen.

Chaplain Kennedy and Quartermaster Neese reported on several members of the Camp who are ill, hospitalized or in recovery.

The application for membership of Kenneth Wyatt, Sr., was approved unanimously.

Compatriot DuPree reported the Fort McDermott site is gradually being cleared of selected vegetation. Anyone willing to do some clearing is welcome to do so. Call Joe DuPree at 421-0491. The Eagle Scout son of Compatriot Rather will undertake projects to build a bridge and steps at the site. Given that 2015 Sesquicentennial for the Alabama Division will be in Mobile in April, it would be great to have something ready for attendees to see at the site.

As Chairman of the Nominations and Elections Committee, Compatriot DuPree brought forward the slate of officers which were presented at the 29 October 2012 meeting and was included in the last issue of *The Admiral's Log*. Term of office is two years. There being no nominations from the floor, the slate was approved by acclamation.

My appreciation to Compatriot and Boatswain Tom Root for taking minutes for me during my absence of this meeting. I can read his notes better than I can read mine! Thank you Tom.

Respectfully submitted,
William P. Rodgers, Adjutant

A Confederate Soldier's Christmas
From the diary of Robert Watson of Key West, Florida.

December 25, 1863 at Dalton, Georgia after action at Chickamauga

"Christmas day and a very dull one but I find a tolerable good dinner. I had one drink of whiskey in the morning. There was some serenading last night but I took no part in it for I did not feel merry as my thoughts were of home..."

A Sesquicentennial Moment

December 11th: General Forrest departs Columbia, Tennessee, with 2500 cavalymen for the start of an operation against Grant's long lines of communication.

December 13th: Battle of Fredericksburg

December 17th: Grant issues General Order #11. This order expels all Jews from his department because they are "a class violating every regulation of trade established by the Treasury Department".

December 20th: Gen. Earl Van Dorn's raid on Holly Springs, Mississippi. This operation along with Forrest and Morgan's raids caused Grant to delay his attack on Vicksburg. [Editor's note: This raid was originated out of Grenada, Mississippi, my hometown. Many of those Confederate troops were camped in the same area that was my playground as a child.]

December 31st: The USS Monitor sinks in a storm off Cape Hatteras.

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

WBTS Usage

Leopard: A moniker for Confederate General John Hunt Morgan

Lincoln hirelings: Confederate slang for Union soldiers.

Lincoln pie: Yankee slang forhardtack.

pas de charge: The drumbeat by which a charge was signaled.

Source: The Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage by Webb Garrison

Confederate Birthdays

Brigadier General Stand Watie was born on December 12th, 1806, in the Cherokee Territory near present day Calhoun, Georgia. Watie was a writer for the Cherokee newspaper, "The Cherokee Phoenix". In this capacity he fought against the repressive Indian laws of Georgia. He was an advocate for the removal of the Cherokee to the Indian Territory of Oklahoma. This position put him at odds with other factions of the Cherokee Nation. Prior to the removal of the Cherokee he tried to secure the rights of the Cherokee by making treaties with the US Government. Watie's Cherokee name was Degataga which translates to "stand firm". His family surname was Uwatie with the U being dropped later. Thus we have Stand Waite.

In Oklahoma Watie developed a successful plantation on Spavinaw Creek and by 1862 he was a principle chief of the Cherokee. At the beginning of the WBTS he organized the 1st Cherokee Mounted Rifles and was elected as their colonel. At the Battle of Pea Ridge he captured Union artillery and protected the retreat of the Confederate forces. He eventually rose to the rank of brigadier general and was commander of the 1st Indian Brigade. On June 23rd, 1865, after the Battle of Doaksville, Watie signed a cease fire agreement with the Union. General Stand Watie was the last field commander to surrender to the Union. After the war he renegotiated treaties with the Federal government.

Stand Watie died on September 9th, 1871, and is buried in Poison Cemetery. Poison Cemetery is located in Delaware County, Oklahoma.

"Watie's last years were careworn as his family dropped around him. All his sons died before he died on September 9, 1871, and his two young daughters followed in 1873. But Confederate veterans and sympathetic writers kept Watie's legend alive. He became the example of devotion to the Cause. Even enemy Cherokees came to respect his devotion to his beliefs, and Stand and Watie became common Cherokee first names.

Watie had displayed unflinching courage, devotion, constant optimism and good humor—at least according to his friends. He never, they say, had a harsh word for his family and never gave way to despair or dejection. In reality he was not a shining cavalier—his Indian troops sometimes reverted to scalping and torture. He clearly was involved in shameful political skullduggery. But he was a man who fought hard for his beliefs and stuck to his guns even when the odds were against him. He had supported two lost causes—the Ridges and then the Confederacy—but he had never given up." [The above quote comes from an October 1997 article in Wild West Magazine by Jim Steberger.]

"PEARL HARBOR DAY" DECEMBER 7TH, GOD BLESS ALL WHO SERVED...

BUT WAS NOT THE FIRST "DAY OF INFAMY"....ON APRIL 12TH 1861, THE US GOVERNMENT EXECUTES AN UNPROVOKED SNEAK ATTACK ON CHARLESTON SOUTH CAROLINA... RESULTING IN THE DEATHS OF NEARLY A MILLION AMERICANS...

When the new emperor takes office, he waits for Congress to go on recess, and then he swings in action for his Grand Plan - Provoking the South into war.

Lincoln, by Himself: (1) Ignored former president John Tyler's Peace Commission (2) Ignored the advice of his General Winfield Scott not to Send a War Fleet to Sumter (3) Ignored the advice of his Cabinet not to Send a War Fleet, (4) While still under Peace agreement with S.C. Governor not to

Send additional Troops to Sumter - Sent a War Fleet to Sumter & Announced the Departure. (5) Ft. Pickens Retaken "Under Force" - While under a Peace Agreement (6) War Fleet Sails into Charleston Harbor - and the Fort is Shelled [there was no other option for S.C.] (7) Lincoln by himself and without approval of Congress [it's on recess and he knows it] Calls up 75,000 Troops from the South & Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri and Maryland are drawn into the Conflict (8) Lincoln Immediately Orders a Blockade [An Act of War] without Congress. 9) Lincoln Immediately sends troops into Border States, (10) Lincoln Invades Virginia the day the Citizens vote by consensus to leave the Union, with 3,000 troops in Alexandria / Arlington and (11) Jails members of the Maryland State Legislature before they could vote on Seceding from the Union.

Alexander Stephens identified the beginning of the war as Lincoln's order sending a "hostile fleet, styled the 'Relief Squadron'," to reinforce Fort Sumter. "The war was then and there inaugurated and begun by the authorities at Washington." [Source: Robert Mestas from the Face Book page "Defending the Heritage".]

Reflections from the Editor's Desk

Obviously we celebrate the birth of Jesus during the Christmas Season. At the same time we must reflect on the purpose of his life which was the ultimate sacrifice for our salvation. As we remember the sacrifice of Jesus we must also reflect on the sacrifice of our Confederate ancestors. Many of our heroes left home in 1861 and did not return for four long years. Many never returned as they spilled their life's blood in defense of our homeland. And at the same time the families of the Confederate soldiers were trying to keep the home front safe. I believe it is safe to say that for four years it was hard to have a Merry Christmas in the South.

Also at this time of the year I have to remember how hard times were in the South in 1864. Satan had just marched across Georgia destroying everything in his path and his attention was now being focused on South Carolina. The ANV was stuck in trench warfare around Petersburg, Virginia. And in the Western Theater the AoT had ceased to exist. I cannot begin to imagine all of the hardship and sacrifice that was occurring in the closing days of 1864.

In spite of all of this we can be proud of the legacy and the heritage we inherited from our Confederate ancestors. Let us all join together and make a concerted effort to protect our Heritage in the New Year.

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

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**