

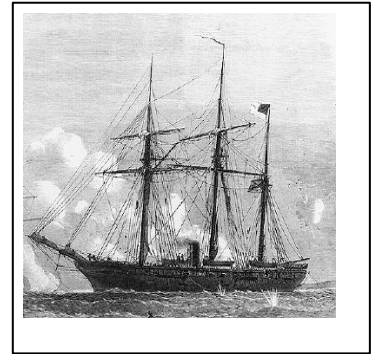
The Admiral's Log

Sons of Confederate Veterans

1211 Government St., Mobile, AL 36604

Raphael Semmes Camp 11

February 2013



Dear Friends and Compatriots of Camp 11,

Greetings and salutations from Camp 11. The first order of business is to mention a piece of news that I forgot last month. We are all thrilled that our camp now has a functional web site, and it's a good one. Compatriot Joe LoCicero is our web master. The web address is www.scvsemmes.org. It is obvious that Joe has a passion for our web site and we certainly do appreciate his devotion to the effort. Many thanks to Compatriot LoCicero.

Obviously we all know that it is black history month. The disgrace of this month is the fact that Negro Confederate soldiers do not get the recognition they deserve. We have also had to endure President's Day. As far as I am concerned Jefferson Davis is the only president who deserves to be honored on President's Day.

This coming weekend is the third annual reenactment at Quitman, Mississippi. This event commemorates the destruction of Quitman by Sherman's troops in February of 1864. Several of our camp members will be participating in this event.

Claude Turberville attended the event last year and for a year he has been building a replica of an ironclad. When Claude saw that the event is held in a water park his scheming mind went to work. We are looking forward to seeing the CSS Michele.

We also do a night artillery fire over the lake. It is an awesome sight to see artillery fire at night. This year Compatriot Ellison and I mixed up a special blend of powder for the night fire. We are looking forward to the night fire to see if our secret recipe works.

On February 9th I attended the Division Executive Committee Meeting in Prattville. It was a good meeting and it was also nice to see many of our Alabama Division compatriots.

Please mark your calendars now for June 7th-9th. The annual Division Reunion will be held at Foley and hosted by the Blakeley Camp. For more details you can visit the Division web site. As the date comes closer we will provide more information at our May camp meeting.

Please continue to pray for our camp and its members.

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
28 January 2013

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 Sergeant-at-Arms Dustin Marshall.

The program was presented by Lt. Commander Beetle Bailey. The period of Reconstruction following the War of Northern Aggression was the topic. The South suffered famine and disease as the Union League continued to grow and inflict atrocities upon the survivors of the devastation inflicted by the yankees upon all segments of the population in the South. The primary purpose of Reconstruction by the federal government was to continue the war through political means. And just as successfully as was the murderous activities and unthinkable actions of the union soldiers, so were the activities of the Union League. And to counter the Union League, the oppressed citizens of the South retaliated with the rise of the Ku Klux Klan. Eventually the Union League self-destructed because of their horrendous oppression of the people of the South.

Boatswain Tom Root read from Memoirs of Service Afloat by Raphael Semmes. He read the selection when the Admiral had resigned his commission with the federal navy and was on his way from Washington City to Montgomery. As the train passed West Point, Georgia, and entered Alabama, the pine trees with ablaze. The Admiral saw the fire and smoke as a passage from his earlier life to that which awaited as the train continued to Montgomery where he would accept his commission in the Navy of the CSA.

Paymaster Charlie Christmas reported that he still had some flags available if anyone would like to purchase. Price is \$10.00 each.

Commander Ringhoffer:

there will be activities at Beauvoir on March 15th and 16th;
thanks to Compatriot DuPree for planning the Lee-Jackson salute, thanks to those who participated and attended, thanks to Compatriot Tom Godwin for the new sound system. Compatriot Edgar Hughes is writing up the special activities of the Camp for submission to the Alabama Division Newsletter and to the Confederate Veteran.

Lt. Commander Bailey reported that the Alabama Division Executive Committee will be meeting in Prattville on February 9. Also the Division has a Facebook page for those who use Facebook. And a big weekend is being planned in June for Beauvoir. He also reported that the 290 Foundation has a Facebook page.

Webmaster Joe LoCicero is looking for additional additional information for the excellent web-site he has created and is maintaining for the Camp. The Camp gave him a round of applause for the work he is doing.

Memorials Chairman Joe DuPree reported that the First National Flag, sub-mounted by the Battle Flag. Much work has been done in clearing the Ft. McDermott site and much work remains. The 16-year old son of Compatriot is going to build a 30-foot long bridge over the moat.

Lt. Commander Bailey reported that microfiche which he had obtained was given to the Citronelle Historical Preservation Society. The film contains information related to the surrender at Citronelle.

Quartermaster Darrell Neese reported that he has obtained the firing mechanism for a cannon that was recovered from Ft. Powell [*Ft. Powell was a fortification on a shell island in Mobile Bay just north of the entry into Grant's Pass. It was destroyed by the Southern troops as the union ships began firing on it*]. He also allowed three knives he owns to be passed around for the men to see and compare.

There was no old business.

Under new business, the Camp unanimously approved the application for membership for James Reiser.

The next meeting is February 25.

The May meeting will be the annual 'show and tell' meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the benediction of Assistant Chaplain Phillips.

Respectfully submitted,

William P. Rodgers, Adjutant

A Sesquicentennial Moment

Naval Operations in February, 1863

On February 7th the port of Galveston is reopened and on the same day three blockade runners slip into Charleston. Federal efforts to tighten the blockade is continuing. The seamanship and audacity of the blockade runners was of a high order. None the less the blockade runners could not keep up with the needs of the Confederacy. Over a million bales of cotton shipped out of the South from 1862 to 1864. This was only one-tenth of the prewar shipments. In the early days of the blockade, when everyone was expecting a short war, no effort was made to import European railroad equipment and other materials. By April of 1865 food was rotting in Carolina and Georgia because the railroads were ineffective.

Union Naval Commanders have voiced their concerns about the delay of supplies. Both Porter and DuPont needed such things as machine oil, clothes, dried fruit, and fresh water. Fresh water was always a concern for the vessels that spent several weeks at a time on blockade duty. Coal was not an issue as long as it could be acquired locally. The demands of coal for Porter's large fleet meant that he needed 130, 000 to 160,000 bushels of coal per month. This was a logistical nightmare.

On the 12th the CSS Florida destroys a tea clipper and its \$2 million cargo.

On the 28th the USS Montauk attacks and destroys the Confederate steamer "Nashville" on the Ogeechee River {Georgia}.

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

WBTS Usage

The weight of metal: The weight of projectiles that could be fired by a battery, warship, or fort. The USS New Ironsides carried sixteen 11-inch Dahlgren's, two 200-pounder Parrots, and four 24-pounder howitzers. This gave the vessel a weight of metal of 284,000 pounds.

Source: The Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage by Webb Garrison

Confederate Birthdays

BG James Deshler was born in Tuscumbia, Alabama, on February 8th, 1833. He was an 1854 graduate of West Point. His classmates were Jeb Stuart, Dorsey Pender, and S. D. Lee. In 1861 he resigned his commission and became a Confederate artillery captain. Deshler was wounded at the Battle of Allegheny Mountain and after recovery was assigned to the staff of MG Theophilus Holmes. He was captured at the Battle of Ft. Hindman and was exchanged on July, 28th, 1863. On September 20th, 1863, at Chickamauga, BG Deshler was inspecting his brigade when he was killed by enemy artillery." He lived beloved, and fell lamented and mourned by every officer and man of his command". General James Deshler is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Tuscumbia.

Quotes from the Heroes

Dr. J.B. Cowan's account of Jeffrey Forrest's death and Gen. Forrest's action afterwards at the battle of Okolona: "The rough soldier kissed his dead brother tenderly, with tears streaming from his eyes, laid him gently on the ground, took one last look, and then his expression of grief gave way to one of almost ferocity; he sprang to his horse, shouting to Goss his bugler, 'Blow the charge!' and swept ahead of his men in the direction of the retreating enemy. I followed as close behind as I could and most of the Escort stayed near him. Half a mile down the road we suddenly came upon the enemy who was making a stand. Artillery had been placed so as to sweep the approaches to their lines and they opened fire on us as soon as they saw us. I remonstrated with the General for exposing himself and Forrest said "Doctor, if you are uneasy here you may ride out of range." A minute later his horse was killed under him and he mounted one belonging to Private J.B. Long of the Escort only to have that horse shot a short time later. By then someone had brought up King Phillip. Mounted on his favorite horse the charge was again ordered and the sixty men of the Escort went again at the Yankees."

James Henley Thornwell [1822-1862] was a Presbyterian minister and theologian. He taught at Columbia Theological Seminary. He made a very insightful observation about the War for Southern Independence: "The parties of this conflict are not merely abolitionists and slaveholders. They are atheists, socialists, communists, red republicans, Jacobins, on one side, and the friends of order and regulated freedom on the other. In one word, the world is a battle ground. Christianity and atheism are

the combatants and the progress of humanity is at stake."

"They are now fighting the battle of despotism. They have put their Constitution under their feet; they have annulled its most sacred provisions; the future fortunes of our children, and of this continent, would then be determined by a tyranny which has no parallel in history."

Dr. James Henley Thornwell of South Carolina, in Our Danger and our Duty, 1862

WBTS Trivia

CONFEDERATE WAR HORSES

Nathan Bedford Forrest - King Philip -
Gen. Robert E. Lee - Traveler
Maj. Gen. Jeb Stuart - Highfly
Stonewall Jackson - Little Sorrel
Maj. Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne - Dixie
Gen. Albert S. Johnston - Fire-eater
Maj. Gen. Fitzhugh Lee - Nellie Gray
Belle Boyd - Fleeter

Upcoming Events

February 22nd: The Defense of Quitman Reenactment at Archusa Water Park in Quitman, Mississippi
February 25th: Semmes Camp meeting
March 1st – 3rd: Boy Scout Camporee at Beauvoir, a living history event
March 6th: Confederate Heritage Rally at Beauvoir
March 9th: Living History at Isaac Creek in Monroe County
March 9th: Two Confederate tombstone placements and memorial services in Greene County, Mississippi
March 16th: 1812 event at Ft. Mims in Tensas, Alabama
March 25th: Semmes Camp meeting
April 12th -14th: Natchez Rendezvous at Jefferson College near Natchez, Mississippi
April 22nd: Confederate Memorial Service in Montgomery on the Capitol Grounds
April 26th – April 28th: Reenactment at Selma, Alabama
April 27th: Mississippi Division Confederate Memorial Service at Beauvoir
April 29th: Semmes Camp meeting

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**