

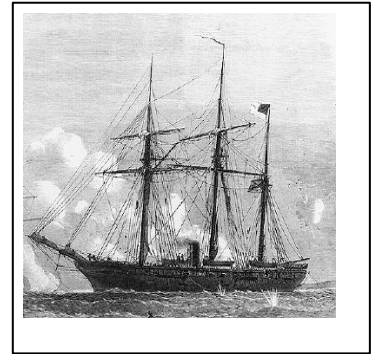
The Admiral's Log

Sons of Confederate Veterans

1211 Government St., Mobile, AL 36604

Raphael Semmes Camp 11

September 2013



Dear Friends and Compatriots of Camp 11,

Greetings and salutations from Camp 11. I certainly hope and pray that this edition of the Log finds all of you doing well. Thank goodness college football is back. That means that cooler weather and hunting season is just around the corner.

Several of our camp members attended the 200th Commemoration of the Ft. Mims Massacre. It was a good event and I managed to keep Claude Turberville from removing my scalp. The event coordinators estimate that nearly 8000 people attended the event over the course of the weekend.

The big attention getter this month has been the 150th Commemoration Reenactment of the Battle of Chickamauga. Compatriot Dustin Marshall attended this event. Dustin reports that he had a good time and managed to kill a few Yankees.

Compatriot David Smithweck has informed me that Sid Schell's book about Ft. Powell is now available at Amazon.com.

I also want to take this opportunity to inform you that Compatriot Art Green now has another publication available. Some months back Art acquired the personal diary of William J. Herrin. Art transcribed the diary and has had it published. Herrin enlisted with the 38th Alabama at Suggsville as a captain. By the end of the war he had reached the rank of lieutenant colonel. Herrin, along with many men of the 38th, was captured at Missionary Ridge. These men spent the next 11 months at places such as Johnson's Island. After the war Herrin was a successful businessman and newspaper publisher. Art reports that the diary is informative and well written. The cost of a copy is \$15 and Art can be reached at 251-478-6553.

I have also stumbled across something else that may be of interest to you. If you want to read old issues of the Confederate Veteran it can now be done on line. Confederate Veteran Archives can be found at the following web site: onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu

Our next meeting will be on September 30th. Please make plans to attend as this is one of the most special meetings of the year. In September we always honor the birthday of our camp's name sake, Admiral Raphael Semmes. We also honor the birthday of the hero of the Battle of Mobile Bay,

Admiral Franklin Buchannan. As in times past we certainly look forward to seeing the Admiral's descendants at this meeting.

September is a good time for all of us to reflect on the Confederate Naval heritage of Mobile. There was no other commerce raider more successful than the Admiral and the CSS Alabama. The bravery of Admiral Buchannan at the Battle of Mobile Bay is legendary. Then of course Mobile had a hand in the CSS Hunley. Folks, if this does not make you proud of our camp and its heritage I do not know what will. God Bless the Semmes Camp!

In closing, please continue to be vigilant with your prayers for our camp and each other.

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

Minutes

Admiral Semmes, Camp 11
Sons of Confederate Veterans
26August2013

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 Commander Ringhoffer.

1st Lt. Commander Bailey introduced Pat and Butch Godwin from Selma, AL. Pat, a member of the UDC, delivered the program. She is the chair of the Jefferson Davis Highway Committee of the Alabama Division, UDC. She discussed issues with vandalism and theft of signs along the highway. Also regulations adopted by the ALDOT make replacement of the signs difficult, both in allowing use of UDC format which has long been the custom and in providing timely installation of the replacement signs.

After the break, Boatswain Tom Root read a selection from Admiral Semmes autobiography. Even though the CSA Alabama was commissioned as a ship of war, the yankee government and press used the term privateer to demean the Southern cause and thereby refuse to tell the truth to the people of the north. [Sound familiar today?]

Commander Ringhoffer:

The September meeting will be a celebration of the Admiral's birthday. So there will be no program.

Special thanks to 1st Lt. Cmd. Bailey for the significant work he does for Camp #11 and for the Southwest Brigade which he serves as Commander.

Political issues at the Confederate Museum in Roanoke, VA., are on-going.

Political issues also exist with the Veterans Administration regarding procurement of headstones.

Thanks to Sergeant-at-Arms Claude Turberville for repairing the monument at Confederate Rest.

Annual dues are now payable.

Many men contributed to the signage at Ft. McDermott and the Spanish Fort battlefield.

Compatriot Kirk Barrett reported on a project he initiated to place correct and accurate signage in the Spanish Fort battlefield area. He is personally underwriting a significant part of the cost. Commander Ringhoffer will seek additional support from the Divisions who had troops encamped there. One existing sign that Camp #11 purchased in 1984 is not installed at the correct site. As the City of Spanish Fort has approved the project and will install the markers, and as enough money already has been donated, two new markers have been ordered. About \$5,000.00 is still needed. Contributions to Camp #11 are tax-deductible.

1st. Lt. Commander Bailey:

Living history classes have become very successful at Beauvoir each 3rd Saturday of the month and will be a part of Fall Muster at Beauvoir.

The Division Poster will highlight the 1864 Battle of Mobile Bay.

This coming weekend from Friday through Sunday, the massacre at Ft. Mims will be commemorated.

In November of 2015 the last event of the sesquicentennial will be held in Liverpool, England. The final event of the War of Northern Aggression occurred in Liverpool.

Paymaster Christmas:

Dues are now payable for the 2013-14 year. 65 members already have paid.

Webmaster LoCicero reported on web activity. Anyone who has documents, pictures, stories, etc., please forward to him.

Quartermaster Neese reported on those men with health issues.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer from Assistant Chaplain Phillips.

A Sesquicentennial Moment, September 1863

The Battle of Chickamauga was fought on September 19th and 20th, 1863. This was the first major battle of the war fought in Georgia. It was also the bloodiest battle for the Army of Tennessee. This was not the first time General Bragg had been in the area. Bragg helped round up Indians from this area when they were moved out west. A future president, James A. Garfield, fought at Chickamauga. The Yankees had the Spencer repeating rifle at this battle. This new weapon was a significant advantage for the enemy. Union General George Thomas earned his nickname at this battle, The Rock of Chickamauga. General James Longstreet was the luckiest commander during the battle. When Rosecrans shifted his forces a gap in the line was created. Longstreet realized this and as a result Longstreet's troops decimated the Yankees. Even though the South won this battle it signaled the death knell for the Army of Tennessee. Bragg's forces suffered a 20 percent casualty rate. Furthermore, Bragg allowed the Yankees to get back to Chattanooga where they were soon reinforced by Grant. Chattanooga was secured and became a Union supply base for the Atlanta Campaign. Chickamauga was the nation's first National Military Park. After the WBTS Chickamauga was used by the US Army as a military base.

WBTS Usage

Mountain howitzer: a 12 pounder howitzer designed to be disassembled and reassembled quickly for use in rugged terrain.

Mud Heads: slang for natives of Mississippi.

"So-called seceded states": Lincoln's preferred reference to the CSA, refusing to concede that any state had left the Union.

Source: The Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage by Webb Garrison

Confederate Birthdays

Admiral Raphael Semmes was born on September 27, 1809 and died on August 30 1877. The Admiral is buried in Mobile's Catholic Cemetery.

Admiral Franklin Buchanan was born on September 17th, 1800 and died on May 11th, 1874. Admiral Buchanan is buried in Easton, Maryland.

Major General Earl Van Dorn was born on September 17th, 1820 in Port Gibson, Mississippi. Van Dorn was murdered in Springhill, Tennessee on May 7th, 1863. He is buried in Port Gibson at Wintergreen Cemetery.

Secession and War: a commentary by Valerie Protopapas[From her post on Facebook]

It is time to distinguish the difference between why the South seceded (left the Union) and why the South FOUGHT. There IS a difference. The first group of Southern States seceded because they had become impotent politically and were nothing more than an economic colony of the rest of the nation, their wealth stolen from them by excessive tariffs to be used in corporate cronyism to benefit the economic situation in the North. The second group of Southern States seceded because they were

being forced by the federal government to provide arms and men to wage unconstitutional war upon their fellow Southerners who had constitutionally left the Union.

HOWEVER, all of those States FOUGHT because THEY WERE INVADED and their homes and liberties attacked in an illegal and unwarranted war of conquest, subjugation and extermination.

Quotes from the Heroes

"To fulfill a promise of long standing, I give my experience as a private soldier boy in the War of the States from the early spring of 1861 to its close. I do not attempt to explain the causes of the war, as that theme engages the attention of the best historians, but I sincerely believe that no truer men ever espoused any cause. Suffice it to say that our leaders were well selected. As chief executive of our Confederacy Jefferson Davis stands the severest of tests. Our generals were brave and true. Our women were good and faithful and they have never been reconstructed. The cause of our failure was not in lack of efficient leaders, but of resources. My personal experiences, with such incidents as came under my own observation in camp, on the march, and in prison, are given to pay tribute to the merit of my comrades and people".

This quote is the preface to "Simple Story of a Soldier" by Samuel H. Hankins. Hankins served in Company E, 2nd Mississippi Infantry Regiment and in Company F, 3rd Mississippi Cavalry Battalion. As a resident of the Jefferson Davis Soldiers' Home in Biloxi, Hankins penned his memoirs which were serialized in the Confederate Veteran Magazine. Samuel H. Hankins was sixteen years old when he enlisted in the Confederate Army on February 22, 1861 in Gunntown, Itawamba County, Mississippi.[Editor's note: This is the person yours truly will portray at Beauvoir's Cemetery Walk on October 8th.]

"It is impossible to say precisely when the conviction became general in the South that we were to be beaten. I cannot even decide at what time I myself began to think the cause a hopeless one, and I have never yet found one of my fellow-Confederates, though I have questioned many of them, who could tell me with any degree of certainty the history of his change from confidence to despondency. "We schooled ourselves from the first to think that we should ultimately win, and the habit of thinking so was too strong to be easily broken by adverse happenings. Having undertaken to make good our declaration of independence, we refused to admit, even to ourselves, the possibility of failure. It was a part of our soldierly and patriotic duty to believe that ultimate success was to be ours, and Stuart only uttered the common thought of army and people, when he said, "We are bound to believe that, anyhow."

"We were convinced, beyond the possibility of a doubt, of the absolute righteousness of our cause, and in spite of history we persuaded ourselves that a people battling for the right could not fail in the end."

Source: "A Rebel's Recollections" by George Cary Eggleston, published 1875, page 230.

Upcoming Events

October 8th: Beauvoir Cemetery Walk. 5-7pm.

October 19th & 20th: Fall Muster Reenactment at Beauvoir.

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**