

March 2014

# The Admiral's Log

**Sons of Confederate Veterans**

1211 Government St., Mobile, AL 36604

**Raphael Semmes Camp 11**



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. March is moving on and I am glad. It has been a busy month but I can't wait for Confederate Heritage and History month in April. Be sure to look at the list of local Confederate Memorial Services in April at the end of the Log.

Compatriot Stephen Ellison and I had a fine time with Matilda during Mardi Gras. We were invited to bring her to Ladd Stadium for horse mounted police training. We fired Matilda and our muskets as the mounted officers rode their horses. The noise did not bother them but they did not like the smell of burnt powder smoke. It was an honor and a pleasure for us to be of service in this fashion to our community.

March has seen my buddy, Claude Turberville, and I burning little black powder. On the weekend of the 8<sup>th</sup> we ventured off to Gainesville, Alabama, to participate in the reenactment of the Battle for Cuba Station. We really enjoy this event as there are two memorial services in the weekend. The event is also hosted by a group of Confederate conscience families in the town. Their hospitality is truly typical of Alabama.

The following weekend we participated in a War of 1812 event at Ft. Mims in north Baldwin County. On Sunday morning there was as much as 4 inches of water standing in the fort. Some folks thought they should get their canoes and have the Canoe Fight of the Creek War. It is truly a remarkable time in history with both a sesquicentennial of the WBTS and a bicentennial of the War of 812 going on at the same time.

We have some exiting news to share in this addition of the Log. On February 25<sup>th</sup> our camp started a page on that social media madness called Facebook. Our Wetumpka compatriot, Shannon Fontaine, set it up for us and it has done quite well. We are reaching a lot of people and we have nearly 500 "likes". Some of us had talked about starting a Facebook page, so thanks to Compatriot Fontaine for getting it started.

When we started the page I immediately ordered a copy of "Service Afloat" so I could post Semmes quotes on the page. This is an inspiration of Boatswain Tom Root and his readings of the Admiral's memoir at our camp meetings. At any rate I got a smart-alec comment out of Commander Ringhoffer

about it was finally “time that I got a copy”. That is why we keep the commander around--to keep us on our toes!

Our program schedule is in good shape for now. This month Gloria Wyatt will make a presentation about Augusta Evans Wilson and the literature of the WBTS. She will also share some information about her Confederate ancestors. Gloria is the wife of Compatriot Ken Wyatt. In April, D. A. Bass-Frazier will visit the camp with a monuments program. May is show and tell. Then in June Compatriot Steve Kennedy is having a friend stop by with a lighthouse program. It all sounds good to me. We also want to take this opportunity to thank Joe Jackson for his presentation at the last meeting. Make your plans to be a part of our monthly meetings at the Dew Drop Inn on Old Shell Road.

A program note for our March meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup>: Heritage Posters will be available. Alabama Division 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Commander, Carl Jones, has done his usual fine job producing our posters. This year we are commemorating the Tallassee carbine and the Battle of Mobile Bay.

At this point I want to share a few housekeeping details about our Confederate Memorial Service on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Compatriot Steve Kennedy will place the flag holders on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup>. If you want to share in this fellowship meet him at Confederate Rest at 7:30 am. He usually has coffee and biscuits. This is a blessed fellowship and if you are available to mark the graves of our heroes please come and join him. Also Steve is involved with marking all of the Confederate graves using global positioning. If you know of a stone that is not being marked please contact Steve at 251-509-2375. On the day of the service I will be at the cemetery by 9:00am to post our cemetery flags in the holders. Then immediately following the service on Sunday we have a bunch of work to do in the recovery of our flags, etc. So don't rush off, we can use your help.

As all of you are aware, we have been concerned for some time about the disposition of the Semmes Mural at the east bound welcome center on I-10. The tourism board will soon demolish the facility and build a new one. Recently the tourism folks took an interest in this 40 year old tribute to the Admiral and the CSS Alabama. Hopefully we will see a good outcome to this business in the future. Our camp has already made extensive photographs of the mural for posterity. So let us hope and pray for the best now that Montgomery has taken an interest in our heritage.

My beloved compatriots let us never grow weary of bending our knees and bowing our heads to seek God's guidance in all of our affairs. May God bless all of you.

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

.Minutes of Admiral Semmes, Camp 11  
Sons of Confederate Veterans  
24 February 2014

The meeting was called to order by Commander Joe Ringhoffer.

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

The pledge and salutes to the flags were led by Compatriot DuPree who then thanked Compatriot Powell Hamlin for the gracious use of the Dew Drop Inn for our monthly meetings.

John Jackson, Director of the Foley Public Library, presented a program about the scarcity of salt during the War of Northern Aggression. Very little salt was produced in the Confederacy and the wetlands around Bon Secour were filled with rich brine water. So a small pre-war operation was turned into a major operation with as many as 990 kettles located under long sheds. They were destroyed by the federals near the end of the war. The proximity to Mobile and the fortifications along the coast prevented the destruction until near the close of the war.

Mr. Jackson then pointed out that the Foley Public Library is the major genealogical source in Baldwin County and welcomed any of our membership with ties to Baldwin County to make use of the resources they have on file.

Commander Ringhoffer:

1. Compatriot Powell was presented a gift from the Camp for allowing us to meet there and for being open to cook for those who come early.
2. Compatriot Holifield was presented with his Certificate of Membership.
3. Paid membership is currently 122.
4. Cups from the Lee-Jackson Salute are available for \$5.00 each.
5. The SCV Reunion will be in North Charleston, SC. More information will be forthcoming.
6. There is a possibility Mobile could be the site of the 2017 SCV Reunion.
7. Confederate Memorial Day will be April 13 at Confederate Rest in Magnolia Cemetery. The subject of the speech will be Admiral Buchanan.
8. April 15, 2015, the Alabama Division will be visiting Fort McDermott.
9. Mike Bailey is the new Director of the Fort Morgan State Park.

Compatriot DuPree announced that the 2nd National is flying at Confederate Rest. He also mentioned that Fort McDermott is getting more attention. In September, a national group of surveyors will be meeting in Mobile. Joe will speak to them, in uniform, of the burial of the remains of the sailor of the CSS Alabama. Then a smaller group will tour Fort McDermott.

Much work remains to be done there. Joe asked for a show of hands of those who could take a few hours to do some work there. Names and telephone numbers were written for those without email addresses.

Compatriot LoCicero reported on the web site. He also said that the Mobile Historic Preservation Society is going through documents, both primary and secondary. If anyone is interested in helping, please call MHPS at 432-6161.

Compatriot Neese reported on those men who are ill.

Compatriot Barrett reported he has received many favorable comments on the new markers placed at selected battle sites in Spanish Fort.

There being no old business and no new business, the meeting was adjourned in prayer offered by Assistant Sidney Phillips, III.

A Sesquicentennial Moment: March, 1864

During the early part of March, 1864, Ulysses Grant was nominated by Lincoln and confirmed by the Senate for lieutenant-general. As the highest ranking officer he assumed the title of general-in-chief of the Army of the United States. Some people were surprised when Grant announced that his headquarters would be in the field and not at the Capitol.

March 12<sup>th</sup>: The Red River Campaign begins.

March 20<sup>th</sup>: Captain Semmes and the CSS Alabama arrive off Cape Town, South Africa.

March 24<sup>th</sup>: Ole Bedford captures Union City, Tennessee.

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

WBTS Usage

to execute a flank movement: to attempt to frustrate body lice by turning one's underwear inside out.

to give the vermin a parole: to discard body lice rather than kill them.

going down the line: to visit a brothel.

gobble talk: a derisive reference to soldiers from Louisiana.

[Source: The Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage by Webb Garrison]

Disease in the WBTS

“The greatest threat to a soldier’s life was disease. Historians estimate that disease killed at least twice as many Civil War soldiers as combat wounds. That would mean that of the 620,000 soldiers who died in the Civil War, around 207,000 died from wounds and 413,000 from disease.”  
“The treatments for disease were often as bad as the diseases themselves. The most common treatment for many diseases was calomel, a medicine whose main ingredient was mercury.”  
[Source: “The Civil War Day By Day” by Phillip Katcher.]

### Confederate Birthdays

Major General William Henry Chase Whiting was born in Biloxi, Mississippi on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1824. At the age of 12 he graduated from the English High School in Boston and at 18 he graduated from Georgetown College in Washington, D.C. In 1845 he graduated from West Point at the top of his class. From 1845 to 1858 he was an army engineer in Maryland, Florida, Texas, California, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. He served in the ANV during the WBTS and was later given command of Ft. Fisher N.C. When Ft. Fisher fell on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1865, Whiting was taken prisoner. He died at Ft. Columbus, Governors Island, NYC, on March 10, 1865. General Whiting is at rest in Oakdale Cemetery in Wilmington, North Carolina.

### A quote from a Non-hero

“The right of revolution is an inherent one. When people are oppressed by their government, it is a natural right they enjoy to relieve themselves of oppression, if they are strong... enough, whether by withdrawal from it, or by overthrowing it and substituting a government more acceptable.” - General Ulysses S. Grant

### Quotes from the Heroes

"The civilization of the Old South was truly unique-nothing like it before or since, nor will there ever be anything like it again.

Henry R. Jackson said:

"The stern glory of Sparta, the rich beauty of Athens, the splendors of Imperial Rome, the brilliancy of ancient Carthage -all pale before the glories of the Old South, the South as our forefathers lived it, the South as Washington, Jefferson, and Madison lived it, and, last but not least, the South as our Robert E. Lee lived it." And Henry Grady said:

'In the honor held above estate; in the hospitality that neither condescended nor cringed; in frankness and heartiness and wholesale comradeship; in the reverence paid to womanhood and the inviolable respect in which woman's name was ever held-the civilization of the Old South has never been surpassed, and perhaps will never again be equaled by any people or nation upon this globe."

THE CIVILIZATION OF THE OLD SOUTH

Mildred Lewis Rutherford

1916 [From a Facebook post]

Now if those quotes do not swell your Confederate heart you need to see Dr. Phillips!

### Some Words of Wisdom from the Admiral

"All mankind are prone to consult their own interests. Selfishness, unfortunately, is one of the vices of our nature, which few are capable of struggling against effectively."

Adm. Raphael Semmes

#### Upcoming Events

March 30<sup>th</sup>: Anderson Camp of Grove Hill will have their memorial service at Amity Baptist Church. Amity Church is approximately 2 miles off of US 84 east of Whatley on Old Line Road [Clarke County Rd. 35]. The service starts at 2:30pm.

March 31<sup>st</sup>: Camp meeting at the Dew Drop. Eat and greet at 6pm. Meet at 7pm.

April 6<sup>th</sup>: The Blakeley Camp of Baldwin County will have their annual service at Point Clear at 2pm.

April 13<sup>th</sup>: Semmes Camp service at 2pm.

April 26<sup>th</sup>: Mississippi Division Confederate Memorial service at Beauvoir at 2pm.

#### 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**