

April 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.

It has been a busy month of Confederate Memorial services. We hope that all of you have taken an opportunity to attend a service.

The month started out with the annual service in Clarke County hosted by the Anderson Camp and the Clarke County Historical Society. Stephen Ellison, Jessie Taylor, Claude and Michelle Turberville, Art Green, and I made the trip to Amity Baptist Church for the ceremony. Our friends in Clarke County always make us feel welcomed and they always have a good turnout for the service. The best part was all of the refreshments they provided in the church fellowship hall after the ceremony. Believe me Claude Turberville knows how to eat cake!

By the way, Claude debuted the latest addition to Turberville Battery. He has mounted the tube that Darrell Neece had onto a naval carriage. Darrell will shoot me for this, but we named the piece "Little Darrell".

On April 6th Claude and Michelle, Donovan Holifield and family, Dustin Marshall, and I attended the Blakely ceremony. Due to threatening weather we had part of the service in the local Episcopal Church and part of it at Point Clear's Confederate Rest. Our friends at Blakely Camp 1864 did their usual exceptional job at hosting a memorable service.

Our own camp service on April 13th was also a very memorable service. We offer a very special thanks to all of you who helped make this service possible. And thank you to all of our camp members and friends who attended. We were especially glad to finally meet our Wetumpka member, Shannon Fontaine. It was good to see you buddy.

By the time this edition of the Log hits the newsstands we will be making preparations for the annual Mississippi Division Confederate Memorial Service at Beauvoir. If you can attend, our friends at Beauvoir would certainly appreciate it. The ceremony is on Saturday, April 26th at 2pm. The ceremony will be held in the Beauvoir Cemetery.

I want to take a moment to remind all of you who are on the internet to visit our camp's web site and Facebook page. The administrators of these media outlets are doing a wonderful job of promoting our camp via the electronic media.

Our next camp meeting will be on April 28th. Our guest speaker will be D. A. Bass-Frasier of the UDC. She will give a program on Confederate monuments in Alabama. In May we will have our annual "Show and Tell" program. Bring something to entertain us. In June Compatriot Robert Sands will bring our program. His topic will be the Alabama Arbitration. Again I have to apologize to Robert for overbooking speakers at the March meeting. Robert agreed to postpone his program until June. Robert was a team player and a real gentleman by agreeing to do his program in June. Thank you Compatriot Sands.

On April 25th I will be at Beauvoir with Matilda for a School Day Living History program. I certainly look forward to sharing the Heritage with youngsters.

On May 3rd, on behalf of the Citronelle Historical Preservation Society, I want to invite all of you to visit the annual Surrender Oak Festival. Several of our camp members have been participating in this for some time now. Part of the festival is held at the railroad museum. However the WBTS living history will be at Camp Pushmataha. We always start the festivities with a brief memorial at the Surrender Site Marker in front of Camp Pushmataha. This ceremony is at 9am. Please come if you can.

Let us continue to pray for our camp as well as for each other.

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

.Minutes of Admiral Semmes, Camp 11
Sons of Confederate Veterans
31 March 2014

The meeting was called to order by Commander Joe Ringhoffer.

The invocation was given by Chaplain Steve Kennedy.

The pledge and salutes to the flags were led by Commander Ringhoffer.

Gloria Wyatt, wife of Compatriot Ken Wyatt, and a member of the Electra Semmes Colston Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The subject was Augusta Evans Wilson. Mrs. Wyatt traced Augusta's early years which resulted in her locating with her family in Mobile. She spoke of Augusta's writings and her efforts to support the Confederacy. She was responsible for organizing businesses to contribute support for honoring those who gave their lives for the cause of the Confederacy.

Boatswain Tom Root read a selection from Admiral Semmes autobiography in which the Admiral shared his thoughts when he learned Abraham Lincoln had been killed. He wrote that the devil certainly would receive the tyrant's soul.

Paymaster Christmas reported the paid membership is 124. SCV motor vehicle tags have been redesigned.

Adjutant Rodgers reported that the 'Last Roll Call' certificate for Ken Stanton, Jr., was delivered to his son, Ken Stanton, III, who is also a member of the Camp.

Commander Ringhoffer:

1. Thanked Compatriot Hamlin for use of the Dew Drop Inn for our meetings.
2. The Semmes family has been given permission to remove the Alabama mural from the I-10 Welcome Station.
3. Beauvoir, owned by the Mississippi Division, has personnel and board changes.
4. April 15, 2015, the Alabama Division will be visiting Fort McDermott.
5. Stamps commemorating the Battle of Mobile Bay will be available at the City of Mobile Museum in July.
6. Confederate Memorial Day will be April 13 at Confederate Rest in Magnolia Cemetery. The subject of the speech will be Admiral Buchanan.
7. Anyone willing to assist the Mobile Historical Preservation Society in reviewing Blakely letters and documents, please call 432-6161.

8. Compatriot Cobb delivered a copy of a page from the Deep South Genealogical Quarterly. It includes information on the casting of the bronze statue of Admiral Semmes which stands at the foot of Government Street and is maintained by the Camp.

1st Lt. Commander Bailey reported that the Camp now has a Facebook page. Also he addressed the Alabama Division Meeting in May.

Compatriot DuPree announced that the 2nd National is flying at Confederate Rest. He reported that April 13 the Confederate Memorial Day program begins at 2:00pm. General Buchanan will be the subject of the address. Also, this Saturday is a work day at Ft. McDermott for those who can participate. If it is not raining, the time is from 9:00am to noon. If it is raining, the work day is canceled. Joe's number is 421-0491.

Chaplain Kennedy reported that there is a new display each week at the Senior Citizens Center on Hillcrest Road.

Compatriot Clark shared information on upcoming shows including the 12th show at Vicksburg. Compatriot O'Donnell-Rosales reported that the National Park Service is attempting to obtain the medical journal of the Gaines.

The meeting adjourned with the benediction by Chaplain Kennedy and the charge delivered by 1st Lt. Commander Bailey.

A Sesquicentennial Moment: April, 1864

April 1st: The CSS Albemarle is towed to Hamilton, N. C.

April 5th thru 9th: General Richard Taylor stops Banks' Red River Campaign at Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, Louisiana.

April 9th: Grant issues orders to Meade, "Wherever Lee goes, there you will head also."

April 12th: Forrest captures Ft. Pillow.

April 17th: Grant issues orders to stop all prisoner exchanges.

April 19th: The CSS Albemarle sinks two yankee boats and commences with the bombardment of a yankee position near Plymouth, N. C.

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

WBTS Usage

Small deer: A term for rats eaten by prisoners of war or citizens under siege.

Division: A basic organizational unit of three brigades commanded by a major general.

Brigade: A unit consisting of four or five regiments and a headquarters company.

Hermaphrodite brig: A two-masted schooner, square rigged forward and schooner rigged aft. British sailors referred to it as a brigantine.

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

WBTS Trivia

The Battle of Big Bethel [Va.] on June 10, 1861, is considered to be the first land battle of the war.

In theory, during the WBTS, a regiment would have had 1000 men.

The largest "all cavalry" battle of the war was Brandy Station, Va.

Gen. D. H. Hill was a brother in law to Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson.

A typical cartridge box of a soldier in the WBTS would hold 40 rounds of ammunition.

Confederate Birthdays

Brigadier General John Caldwell Calhoun Sanders was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on April 4, 1840 and was one of the youngest generals in the CSA. At the age of 18 he entered the University of Alabama, where he studied until early 1861, when Alabama seceded. Enlisting in the Confederate

Guards or Company E, 11th Alabama, he was elected Captain on June 11, 1861. The 11th received its baptism in combat at Seven Pines from May 31 to June 1, 1862. During the campaign, he fell severely wounded on June 30th at Frayser's Farm. He returned to duty on August 11th, assuming command of the regiment. He led the 11th at Second Manassas, and Antietam and was formally promoted to Colonel after the Maryland battle. At Fredericksburg, in December, he again commanded his unit with skill and bravery. Throughout the Army of Northern Virginia's campaigns in 1863 and 1864, he continued to perform conspicuously, fighting with gallantry at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, where he was wounded in the knee. While he recovered, he served as president of the division court-martial. He returned to regimental command in spring 1864, leading his men in the Wilderness and at Spotsylvania, where he temporarily assumed command of Brigadier General Abner M. Perrin's brigade, when Perrin was killed during the Federal assault on the "Mule Shoe." His performance earned him his commission of Brigadier General. During the Petersburg Campaign, he commanded Brigadier General Cadmus M. Wilcox's brigade of Alabama regiments, leading the unit brilliantly in the Confederate counterattack in the Battle of the Crater. While engaged along the Weldon Railroad during the Battle of Globe Tavern on August 21, 1864, he was mortally wounded. A minie ball passed through his thighs, severing both femoral arteries. He died within a few minutes, but not before he calmly told his adjutant, "Take me back, don't leave me." His body was taken to Richmond the next day and was placed in a vault in Hollywood Cemetery. From there he was interred in the Maryland Section for a short while, but his family decided to move his body to lot O-9 which was owned by John C. Page, a wealthy shoe merchant who had cared for him in 1862 after he had been wounded at Frayser's Farm. Somehow the exact location of his grave has been lost, and in 1971 a granite marker to his memory was erected in Section R. The marker reads: IN THIS CEMETERY LIES GEN. JOHN CALDWELL CALHOUN SANDERS C.S.A. APR. 4, 1840 - AUG. 21, 1864 LEE CHAPTER U.D.C. 123 1971.

Quotes from the Heroes

In answer to a captured Yankee Colonel's question, "Who fired the first shot?" An unidentified Confederate private responds in May 1862 after Stonewall Jackson's liberation of Winchester VA. "John Brown at Harper's Ferry, sir, he fired the first gun and Mr. Lincoln, in attempting to reinforce Sumter, fired the second gun. And the Confederates have acted on the defensive all of the time. We did not invade your country, but you invaded ours, you go home and attend to your own business and leave us to ours and the war will close at once."

The Reverend James Power Smith, the last surviving member of Stonewall Jackson's staff, had this to say in 1907: "No cowardice on any battlefield could be as base and shameful as the silent acquiescence in the scheme which was teaching the children in their homes and schools that the commercial value of slavery was the cause of the war, that prisoners of war held in the South were starved and treated with barbarous inhumanity, that Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee were traitors to their country and false to their oaths, that the young men who left everything to resist invasion, and climbed the slopes of Gettysburg and died willingly on a hundred fields were rebels against a righteous government."

The Effect of the Confederate Raiders on Union Shipping

"Semmes and his fellow Confederate captains were so good at their work that before long the flag of the United States was seldom seen on a merchant vessel. Ships by the hundreds were sold or transferred to other flags to escape capture and destruction. What the raiders did paralyzed United States commercial shipping for several generations. George W. Dalzell, in "The Flight from the Flag" [Chapel Hill, 1940], says that "more than half of the total American merchant fleet was lost to the flag during the Civil War. The cruisers burned or sunk 110,000 tons of it; 800,000 tons were sold to foreign owners. In addition, there was a considerable loss of tonnage, for which figures are not available by reason of the fact that some foreign powers, notably Portugal, issued licenses to

American owners by which vessels were placed under the registry and protection of the foreign government under an arrangement which was intended to be temporary but in fact became permanent. The ships that were left under the American flag were the ones the foreigners did not want--old, obsolete, and nearly worthless craft."

Source: "The Confederate Raider Alabama", from the introduction by Phillip Van Doren Stern, page xiii.

"Northern historian Professor Jay Hoar summed up the situation with precision and accuracy when he said: The worst fears of those Boys in Gray are now a fact of American life—a Federal government completely out of control." [Source: The Abbeville Institute article "When Doing Nothing is the Right Thing to Do" by Valerie Protopapas [<http://www.abbevilleinstitute.org/>]

PICAYUNE BUTLER

This article comes from "The Atlanta Century", Sunday, May 11, 1862.

"Picayune Butler" In His Quarters

New Orleans, La.--Citizens of this city have expressed their contempt for their new military commander, Union Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler, by giving him the nickname "Picayune". A picayune is a coin of small value.

Notes from the Editor's Desk

I Am Offended by the Unitarian Church

I have absolutely no regard for the Unitarian Church. My opinion is based on two reasons.

Theologically they are as wrong as wrong can be. Furthermore, from a historic perspective, it was the Unitarian Church and its radical abolitionist's members who poured the gas on that conflagration which engulfed the South in 1861.

Recently I passed the local Unitarian Congregation building [I refuse to call it a church] and saw the following statement posted on their information sign: "Bible Belt Too Tight". This offends my Christian and Confederate Heritage.

Do I need to remind you that after that bloody war our Confederate ancestors, our Christian Confederate ancestors, returned and set about rebuilding their homeland? Do I need to remind you that this was accomplished under the jack boot heel of Reconstruction? In this process of rebuilding their homeland many churches had to be rebuilt because of the Yankee destruction of churches. These same heroes established many new churches that are still in existence today. The result was an enhancement of the South's nickname as the "BIBLE BELT." I am just as proud of my Southern Christian heritage as I am of my Confederate heritage. God Bless the South!

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**