

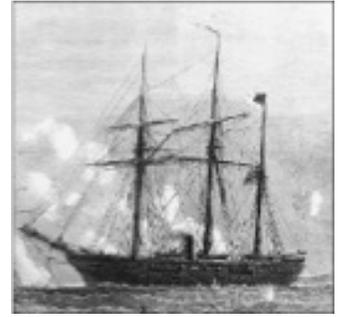


## The Admiral's Log

**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.

As July comes to a close we hope that all of you have enjoyed the July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday. I am sure that all of you got your fill of bar-b-que and watermelon.

The biggest news of this month was the national meeting of the SCV. Commander Ringhoffer along with Compatriots Joe Dupree, Charlie Christmas, and Mike Riley attended the reunion. This was a first time for Mike and all indications are that it will not be his last. We appreciate these gentlemen for representing Camp 11 at the reunion.

Kelly Barrow of Georgia was elected to the national commander's position. Tom Strain of Alabama is our new lieutenant commander. Larry McCluney of Mississippi is now the commander of the Army of Tennessee. It is our prayer that these men will have the wisdom and courage to move our organization in the direction we need to go. Our camp offers our sincere congratulations to all of them and we look forward to doing whatever is necessary to support them.

Yours truly has had several opportunities to represent our camp at different events this month. On the 12<sup>th</sup> I was at Beauvoir as a living history volunteer. Then on the 19<sup>th</sup> I had a very special experience. A friend in Evergreen sent me a copy of her ancestor's memoir. She asked that I attend her family reunion as a "Voice From the Past". I was glad to accommodate her and went as Henry Beasley of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Alabama Infantry Regiment. It was truly an honor to do this for this family and it was fun to share Henry's story with his descendants.

On July 23<sup>rd</sup> several reenacting friends joined me at Citronelle for a living history program. This has been an event that the Citronelle Historical Preservation Society has planned for over a year. During this week the national association of county extension agents held their national meeting in Mobile. One of the tour packages was a trip to Citronelle and the RR Museum. One of our friends does camp fire cooking so that is how we provided them lunch. The lunch consisted of chicken dumplings, cornbread, blackberry pie, and lemonade. While they were eating I took the opportunity to speak of our local heritage, history, and culture. We also had the Baldwin County blacksmiths and some friends from the Picayune SCV camp come over with their cannon. Matilda was also on display. One of my friends from Picayune, Jim Huffman, loves flags as much as Charlie Christmas. I had our flags posted, 26 all total, and Jim told our guests about the flags. The flag display was a big hit. The Azalea Trail Maids were also on site. Our visitors were from as far away as N. D., Minnesota, and N.Y. All of our volunteers enjoyed the chance to share with these folks and our effort was well received by them.

Ed Miller will be our speaker at our monthly meeting on July 28<sup>th</sup>. Ed will have a presentation about the Mobile and Ohio RR during the WBTS. I am sure it will be an interesting topic.

One of the biggest sesquicentennial events of the year will be on the weekend of August 1, the commemoration of the Battle of Mobile Bay. The information regarding this event has already been posted on our camp e-mail list. Ft. Morgan is expecting upwards of 15000 people for the event.

Our friends at the Rosin Heels Camp in Laurel will be hosting their annual Southern Heritage Conference on August 8 & 9. The speakers will be Dr. Cecil Fayard, Dr. John Killian, and Dr. Cary Kimbrell. This is always an outstanding event. The information for this event has been posted on our camp's e-mail list.

Please keep our camp members in your prayers. We have several who are having health issues and your prayers are certainly desired by all of them.

Best regards,

Terry W. "Beetle" Bailey

Editor, The Admiral's Log

### Minutes

Admiral Semmes, Camp 11

Sons of Confederate Veterans

30 June 2014

The meeting was called to order by Commander Joe Ringhoffer.

The invocation was given by Quartermaster Darrell Neese.

Following the pledge and salutes to the flags led by 2nd Lt. Commander Smithweck, the program was given by Compatriot Robert Sands. The subject of the program was the Alabama Claims Commission which met in Geneva, Switzerland to settle a financial claim by the federal government against Great Britain for damages suffered by the yankees because of Great Britain's support of the CSA during the war of northern aggression. It was the first time an arbitration commission was established to settle the claim of one country against another. The meetings were held in the Alabama Room in the Hotel de Ville in Geneva. The original request of \$2 billion by the feds was reduced to a settlement of \$15.5 million.

Robert shared copies of paintings of the arbitrators in session. He also noted that a painting hangs in the Mobile Museum of Art located in Municipal Park.

Boatswain Root read a selection from Admiral Semmes memoirs. The selection was the description by the Admiral of his officers.

The memorial stamp of the Battle of Mobile Bay will be released at 10:30 am, July 30, at the City of Mobile Museum on Royal Street.

1st Lt. Commander Bailey stepped down from Brigade Commander to Lt. Commander. He mentioned that the hits on the Camp's Facebook page and the Camp's web page have continued to grow.

Webmaster LoCicero reported on new images on the web page.

Compatriot Joe Hickman expressed thanks to the men of the camp for their condolences following the death of Eddie. Janet, Eddie's wife, asked Joe to likewise express to the camp her appreciation.

Compatriot Kirk Barrett reported that 14 of the 17 historical markers in Spanish Fort have been erected.

Compatriot DuPree noted that a second set of stairs is to be built at Ft. McDermott. Also the site will be weeded as soon as the summer growing season is over.

Under New Business a motion was made and unanimously approved for the delegates to the National Convention be instructed to vote their consciousness on all matters. Delegates include Joe Ringhoffer, Charlie Christmas, Joe DuPree, and Mike Riley. Also two men, Randy Walker and Wayne Sirmon, were unanimously elected for membership.

Following the benediction by Quartermaster Neese, the meeting was adjourned.

### A Sesquicentennial Moment:

On July 21 Sherman's three armies were still more or less separated. Better yet, Wheeler reported that as McPherson's army marched in on Atlanta from the east, it had its left flank "in the air" (Sherman had sent Kenner Garrard's cavalry east to wreck the Georgia Railroad). This situation presented Hood with an opportunity to launch a flank attack, like the one made famous by Jackson at Chancellorsville. Hood planned for his forces to drop back from their outer lines north of the city into the main fortified perimeter around the city on the night of July 21-22; Stewart and Cheatham would hold the works. Hardee's corps would march through and out of the city, southeast then northeast toward Decatur, guided by Wheeler's cavalry and jump into McPherson's left-rear, while Wheeler attacked McPherson's wagon trains. It was an ambitious plan, calling for a 15-mile night march by Hardee's troops and a dawn attack on the 22nd. But a late start, exhaustion of the men, a hot night, dusty roads and poor service from the cavalry combined to bring the four assault divisions not nearly far enough into McPherson's rear when Hardee, well behind schedule, decided to deploy. Then rough terrain added further delay—Confederate Maj. Gen. W. H. T. Walker was shot and killed getting his division into place. Hardee's surprise attack did not begin till shortly after noon.

The Federals were blessed with a lot of good luck that day. By chance, a Union division under Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Sweeny happened to be in just the right position to meet Hardee's opening assault. Instead of overrunning hospital tents and wagon trains in McPherson's rear, Walker's and Bate's troops ran instead face-to-face into a division of veteran enemy infantry.

General McPherson, having left Sherman's headquarters at the Augustus Hurt house (now Carter Center) just before the firing started, was on this part of the field watching Sweeny contend with the Rebels. Then he rode off to see how Frank Blair's Seventeenth Corps was doing; by now it had been struck by Cleburne's hard-hitting division. McPherson and his staff were riding down a wagon road when they unexpectedly ran into part of Cleburne's line. "He came upon us suddenly," remembered Capt. Richard Beard of the 5th Confederate:

"I threw up my sword as a signal for him to surrender. He checked his horse, raised his hat in salute, wheeled to the right and dashed off to the rear in a gallop. Corporal Coleman, standing near me, was ordered to fire, and it was his shot that brought General McPherson down."

McPherson's subordinates dashed off. One Union officer struck a tree in his flight; the blow smashed his pocket watch and froze the time of the general's death—2:02 p.m. Confederate Captain Beard came up to the body and saw a bullet hole in the back, near the heart. He stayed only long enough to identify the fallen enemy officer as McPherson before continuing his advance. Later, one of McPherson's staff officers led an ambulance back to the scene, retrieved the general's corpse, and bore it to Sherman's headquarters. Sherman was moved with grief for his friend, only the second Union army commander killed during the war.

Cleburne's attack initially overran part of the Union line, capturing two guns and several hundred prisoners. Then the Southerners ran up against infantry and artillery on a hill occupied by Brig. Gen. Mortimer Leggett's division, and were stopped. Maney's Confederate division joined in the fight, but Leggett held onto his hill.

Around 3:00 p.m. Hood ordered Cheatham's division to launch an attack from Atlanta's eastern line of works. Cheatham's assault against the Federal line held by Logan's Fifteenth Corps met with initial success, overrunning the Yankee line at the Troup Hurt House and capturing artillery, until a Union counterattack forced it back. Cleburne's and Maney's divisions gave up their fight, too, as at the end of the afternoon the Confederates retired to their initial positions. The Battle of Atlanta was ended, save for sporadic artillery and rifle fire into the night. General Logan, named to replace McPherson for the moment, reported 3,722 killed wounded or missing in the Army of the Tennessee. Hardee counted 3,299 casualties in his corps, while Cheatham's lost probably half that number. Adding in several hundred casualties in Wheeler's cavalry (from its unsuccessful attack on the Union wagon train at Decatur) Confederate losses on July 22 adds up to about 5,500. Hood's effort to roll up Sherman's left flank had failed.[Source: The Civil War Trust]

## Quotes from the Admiral

Our beloved admiral has a way with words. I do not believe any of us would want to be on the receiving end of the admiral's vitriol. The following excerpt from *Service Afloat* is his comments about Winfield Scott after learning of the Confederate victory at First Manassas.

"This splendid victory was won by General Beauregard. McDowell was the commander of the enemy's forces, assisted, as it would seem, by the poor old superannuated Winfield Scott--this renegade soldier lending his now feeble intellect to the Northern Vandal, to assist in stabbing to the heart his mother state--Virginia! Alas! what an ignoble end of a once proud and honored soldier."

On August 28, 1861, the CSS Sumter was at anchor in Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana [Surinam]. While there some of his officers went ashore for a "grand fandango". Here is the log entry for that day.

"Bright, elastic morning, with a gentle breeze from the south-east. There was a grand fandango, on shore, last night, at which some of my officers were present. The fun grew "fast and furious", as the night waned, and what with the popping of champagne corks, and the flashing of the bright eyes of the waltzers, as they whirled in the giddy dance, my young fellows have come off looking a little red about the eyes, and inclined to be poetical."

## CSS Alabama Propulsion

The new Confederate cruiser was powered by both sail and by two John Laird Sons and Company 300 horsepower (220 kW) horizontal steam engines, driving a single, Griffiths-type, twin-bladed brass screw. The screw could be retracted using the stern's brass lifting gear mechanism. The Alabama could make up to ten knots under sail alone and 13.25 knots (24.54 km/h) when her sail and steam power were used together.

## WBTS Usage

Forty-rod: the worst possible whiskey, said to be lethal at a distance of forty rods.

Gaiters: A canvas, leather, and/or rubber leg covering that reached from the instep to above the ankle or midcalf or knee.[Source: The Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage by Webb Garrison}

## WBTS Trivia

A Confederate colonel wore three stars on his collar.

General John B. Gordon planned and led the attack on Ft. Steadman, the last major offensive of the ANV.

## Confederate Birthday

Robert Augustus Toombs was born in Washington County, Georgia, on July 2, 1810. He was an attorney and served in the U.S. House of representatives and Senate before the war. Here he became a close associate of Alexander Stevens. During the 1840's and 1850's he was a staunch Unionist. By 1860 Toombs had drifted into the radical camp with the fire-eaters in opposition to northern abolitionists. Abraham Lincoln's election to the presidency in 1860 and the resulting secession of Georgia from the Union finally prompted Toombs to resign his U.S. Senate seat on February 4, 1861. Unlike the crisis of 1850, these events galvanized Toombs's radicalism and energized ambitions for becoming the president of the new Confederate nation. The selection of Jefferson Davis as the new nation's chief executive not only dashed Toombs's highest hopes but also turned him into one of the most outspoken critics of the Confederate government and its policies. Nevertheless, Davis chose Toombs as his first secretary of state. Within months of his appointment, a frustrated Toombs stepped down to command a Georgia military brigade in Virginia. Denied a military

promotion, he resigned his commission and returned home to Washington, Georgia. After the war Toombs fled the country until 1867 and when he returned he refused to accept a pardon from the Federal Government. In 1883 Toombs was devastated by the deaths Stephens and a few months later that of his wife. Toombs died on December 15, 1885. Robert Augustus Toombs is buried in Resthaven Cemetery in Washington, Georgia.

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO FIRED THE FIRST SHOT, ONLY WHO CAUSED THE FIRST SHOT TO BE FIRED...

In reply to a committee from Chicago sent to intercede with him to be relieved from sending more troops from the city to the Northern armies, Lincoln said in a tone of bitterness:

“Gentlemen, after Boston, Chicago has been the chief instrument in bringing this war on the country. The Northwest has opposed the South, as New England has opposed the South. It is you who are largely responsible for making blood flow as it has. You called for war until we had it; you have called for emancipation, I have given it to you. Whatever you have asked, you have had. Now you come here begging to be left off. You ought to be ashamed of yourselves.” Tarbell’s “Life of Lincoln” Volume II., P. 149.[Source: Facebook page “Defending the Heritage”]

In a speech before the House of Representatives on December 15, 1859 Georgia Representative M. J. Crawford had this to say: “Now I speak for myself, and not for the delegation. We have endeavored for forty years to settle this question between the North and the South, and find it impossible. I, therefore, am without hope in the Union, so are hundreds of thousands of my countrymen at home. The most confiding of them all are, sir, for “equality in the Union or independence out of it;” having lost all hope of the former, I am for “INDEPENDENCE NOW, AND INDEPENDENCE FOREVER.”

#### 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**