

October 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.

October has proven that the old saying "time waits on no one" is completely true. The month has flown by. Several camp members have participated in local Heritage events this month and we thank them for it.

Our ole buddy, Claude Turberville with Michelle, made it to Newton, Alabama for the annual Battle of Newton. [A co-sponsored event with local SCV] I have not gotten a report from Claude but I am confident that he and his faithful steed have once again represented Camp 11 only as Claude and Champ can. We appreciate Claude and Michelle representing Camp 11 at reenactments, living history programs, fairs, and festivals.

On the same weekend several camp members were busy at Beauvoir for the 28th Annual Fall Muster. Dustin Marshall, Mr. Jessie Taylor, Donovan Holifield and family, and yours truly spent the weekend enjoying the fellowship of Beauvoir. It was an absolutely successful weekend. On Friday we had a school day at Fall Muster. We did this program on Friday and had approximately 1000 school children and their escorts. Then over the two days of Fall Muster the attendance was over 1000. Our camp is honored to have been a part of a wonderful weekend at Beauvoir.

The staff at Beauvoir is working on the memorial brick plaza at the Tomb of the Unknown. I took a look and our camp has three bricks in the plaza, one each for Adm. Semmes, Commander Kell, and the CSS Alabama Crew. Adm. Semmes and the Alabama are well represented as some other donors had bricks dedicated to them.

On October 24th several camp members were back at Beauvoir. Both Donovan and Brandi Holifield were at Beauvoir as volunteers for the 2nd Annual Beauvoir Cemetery Walk. Your editor once again had the honor and privilege of portraying one of the soldiers at rest in the cemetery. This year it was Washington Brown Traweek.

Wash, as he was known, was from Greenville and served with the Jefferson Davis Light Artillery which organized in Montgomery in July of 1861. Wash settled in Clarke County, Mississippi after the war and in 1912 he became an inmate of the Jefferson Davis Soldier's Home at Beauvoir. He was laid to rest in the cemetery in 1923. Wash Traweek has a unique story in that he and several of his friends tunneled out of Elmira and then, remarkably, they made it back to their lines in Virginia.

You can do an internet search on Traweek and it will link you to his story. Speaking of internet; please take the time to visit our web page and our Facebook page. [<http://scvsemmes.org/index.html> and <https://www.facebook.com/admiralsemmes11>.]

November is stacking up to be a busy month as well. On Nov. 8th there is an event at Jefferson College in Natchez. Then on Nov. 22nd Camp Moore in Kentwood, La. is hosting their reenactment which is their annual fund raising event. But there are two closer events that may interest many of

you. On Nov. 15th the venue for the Celtic Games will be Beauvoir. I am sure our Camp 11 volunteers at Beauvoir will be there. Then on Nov. 29th Landrum's Family Homestead opens its Christmas season. On the back side of the property we join our Rosin Heel SCV friends for a day of living history. Landrum's is on the south side of Laurel on Miss. Highway 15. Landrum's is always good SCV fellowship.

We are thrilled to announce that the executive director of Beauvoir, Greg Stewart, will be our speaker for our October 27th meeting. Greg is doing a good job at Beauvoir and I am sure all of us look forward to becoming acquainted him.

Continue with your prayer efforts. We can all use some intercession from the Divine. I think we can safely say that a recent prayer was answered. It was good to hear that the Semmes Mural is now in the hands of the Semmes family.

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

Minutes
Admiral Semmes, Camp 11
Sons of Confederate Veterans
29 September 2014

The meeting was called to order by Commander Joe Ringhoffer. This meeting was the annual birthday celebration for Admirals Semmes and Buchanan.

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

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

Following introduction of guests, Boatswain Root read excerpt from the Mobile Press Register. Dated in 1914, the article was written by Judge Burney about his friendship with Admiral Semmes. Poor following the War of Northern Aggression, the Admiral turned to his legal training and opened a law practice on Conti Street. Burney described the Admiral as quiet, composed, kind, agreeable and held esteem for others. The statue at the foot of Government Street is very true to his likeness.

Commander Ringhoffer:

Members of the Semmes Family were recognized. Oliver reported that the mural that was at the Alabama Welcome Station just inside the Mississippi state line on I-10, was given to the Semmes Family. Michael Rogers (one of the descendants) has a construction company and has several ideas for the erection of the mural which is now in several large pieces.

The Brooks Program is looking for more SCV doctors to join the program.

Compatriots Howard Andrews, Joe DuPree, and Terry 'Beetle' Bailey are appointed as the nominations committee and will bring their report at the October meeting. The election will be at the November meeting. New officers will begin two-year terms at the December Christmas Party.

At the South Alabama and Navy football game, the Semmes Family will have a block of tickets for 57 of the descendants of the Admiral.

Paymaster Christmas:

Over half the camp has paid dues for 2014-15.

Adjutant Rodgers:

Two brief questions to which no one had an answer.

Memorials Chair DuPree:

During the annual meeting of the American Surveyors Association, a group of 46 took A tour led by Compatriots DuPree and Brian Clark. Included was a brief history of the CSA, its flags, and its seal.

The 2nd National is flying at Confederate Rest in Magnolia Cemetery.

The Alabama Division meeting is scheduled for 11 April 2015 and men of the camp will host the event at Ft. McDermott.

There being no old business, the camp unanimously approved the application for membership of Abram Phillips, Jr.

Benediction was offered by Camp 11 Assistant Chaplain Phillips and the meeting was adjourned.

A Sesquicentennial Moment

Anchored in Brazilian waters on October 7, 1864, the CSS Florida, while her captain was ashore with half his crew, was caught defenseless in an illegal night attack by Commander Napoleon Collins, of USS *Wachusett*. Towed to sea, she was sent to the United States as a prize despite the Empire of Brazil's protests at this clear violation of their sovereignty. Commander Collins was court-martialed and was convicted of violating Brazilian territorial rights, but the verdict was set aside by U.S. Navy Secretary, Gideon Welles; Collins won fame and eventual promotion for his piracy.

At Newport News, Virginia on November 28, 1864, *Florida* reached the end of her strange career when she sank under dubious circumstances after a collision with the USAT *Alliance*, a troop ferry. The sinking was most likely done at Admiral David Dixon Porter's encouragement, if not his orders. The Florida could therefore not be delivered to Brazil in satisfaction of the final court order, and could not rejoin the ranks of the Confederate States Navy.

Florida captured 37 prizes during her impressive career; her prizes which were absorbed into the C.S. Navy as CSS *Tacony* and CSS *Clarence* in turn took 23 more.

Today, many of the artifacts from CSS *Florida* are at the Hampton Roads Naval Museum.

Quotes from our Heroes

We sometimes wonder if the Yankees do not get weary themselves of this incessant round of prevarication, or are they so steeped in this false history that they cannot see the truth. We know of many instances, which have come directly to our knowledge, where they refuse the truth when it is demonstrated to them. –Arthur H. Jennings, Confederate Veteran, July 1930, on American history as “manufactured lies.”

I have certainly met with more kindness in this place than anywhere else in the United States—John James Audubon on Charleston, 1831.

It is true that we are completely under the saddle of Massachusetts and Connecticut, and that they ride us very hard, cruelly insulting our feelings, as well as exhausting our strength and substance. – Thomas Jefferson, 1798

There is at work in this land a Yankee spirit and an American spirit. –James H. Thornwell, 1859

Yankees are the only people who think you should be grateful when they invade your country. –Clyde Wilson.

Source: The Abbeville Institute

Canadian political leader, John A. McDonald, pushed for Canadian Confederation and said that “they could make a great nation, capable of defending itself, and he reminded them of “the gallant defense that is being made by the Southern Republic – at this moment they have not much more than four millions of men – not much exceeding our own numbers – yet what a brave fight they have made.”

(Dixie and the Dominion, Canada, the Confederacy, and the War for the Union, Adam Mayers, The Dundurn Group, 2003, pp. 92; 95-98]

"But while we accept our defeat with the consequences that legitimately follow it, it is our right to justify our cause, to vindicate our motives, to honor our dead. This is not only a right, but is a sacred duty. We owe it to ourselves, to... our children, to those who died in the effort to keep us free, that we should cling with unshaken fidelity to these principles which we believe to be true."
Memorial address of General Wade Hampton at Warrenton, Va, June 12, 1873

"The Southern woman was thoroughly informed as to the movements of troops, and as to the details of battles. She read the newspapers eagerly and greedily, would prefer a paper to a good dinner if called upon to choose between them; and, aft...er the second year of the war, when both were scarce, she had less trouble in getting the paper than in getting the dinner, but bore her loss of dinner with Spartan fortitude."

HALF HOURS IN SOUTHERN HISTORY

John Leslie Hall 1907

"General Lee said to General Pendleton, a day or two before the surrender, "I never believed that we could, against the gigantic combination for our subjugation, make good in the long run our Independence, unless foreign powers should directly or indirectly assist us. But such considerations really made with me no difference. If all were to be done over again, I should act in precisely the same manner. I could have taken no other course without dishonor."

LEE AND HIS CAUSE

John R Deering D D

1907

Confederate Birthdays

General Adley Hogan Gladden was born on October 28th, 1810 in South Carolina. He was mortally wounded at Shiloh and is buried in Mobile's Magnolia Cemetery.

Major General Bushrod Rust Johnson was born in Belmont County, Ohio on October 7th, 1817. In 1840 he graduated from West Point and served in the Seminole War. Prior to the WBTS he was a college professor. During the war he was in numerous engagements including Shiloh and Chickamauga. In May of 1864 he joined the ANV and was paroled at Appomattox. After the war he resumed his teaching career at the University of Nashville. He died in Illinois in 1880 but in 1975 he was reinterred at Old City Cemetery in Nashville.

WBTS Usage

Death bells: A derogatory term for hardtack.

House of Bondage: northern slang for the cotton belt. Also known as the Land of Jeff.

Manual of Arms: prescribed movements by which soldiers loaded a weapon or completed some other operation.

Source: The Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage by Webb Garrison

WBTS Trivia

Charleston, S. C. was the scene of the longest siege in modern warfare up until that time, 1863 to 1865. The WBTS was essentially a “1000 day war.” Charleston was bombarded by the Yankees for 545 of those days.

Reflections from the Editor’s Desk

The Sesquicentennial of the WBTS will soon close. I have had the privilege of attending a number of regional and national events. However our 150th local events have been special. I had one of those special moments at Beauvoir during the cemetery tour on October 24th.

Wash Traweek escaped from Elmira on October 7th, 1864. So, 150 years and 17 days later we were commemorating him at Beauvoir.

The tour was unique in another very special way. You see, his descendants were in the Friday night tour. After each presentation of Wash Traweek’s story I reminded our visitors that they had just shared a Sesquicentennial Moment. This seemed to strike chord with all of our visitors especially the descendants of Traweek.

The Beauvoir staff had set out some of the pews from the soldier’s chapel at Beauvoir. It was fun to remind our guests who chose to sit on the pew that they might very well be sitting in the same spot as Ole Wash.

One of the best experiences I have had of late is to learn more and more stories of the Hero’s buried at Beauvoir, truly a wonderful piece of hallowed ground.

Confederately yours,
Terry W. “Beetle” Bailey

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**