

December 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.

**ATTENTION:** Our annual Camp 11 Christmas Party will be at the Dew Drop Inn on December 14 at 6pm. The cost is \$15 per person. Come join us for some good ole Confederate Yuletide fellowship.

Dustin Marshall, David Eubanks, Mr. Jessie Taylor, Donovan Holifield and family, and yours truly attended the 150<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Battle of McLeods Mill in Leakesville, Mississippi. This was an absolutely splendid event. The organizers had done a fabulous job and the community was behind it 100%.

The descendants of George Westinghouse attended the event. They had come from British Columbia and Atlanta to be a part of the commemoration.

You have to love the good ole Southern folks of Leakesville. The scenario called for Lt. Albert Westinghouse to be killed in the battle. When Westinghouse was killed the crowd let loose with a thunderous applause.

Art Green has recently written an article that was published in "Alabama Pioneers". "Along the Corduroy Road" is another good effort by Art. We all appreciate the literary contribution Art has made at furthering the cause of our ancestors. Thanks buddy.

Mark your calendars for February 28<sup>th</sup>. Our camp has been contacted about a headstone dedication ceremony at Magnolia Cemetery. As the details are finalized the information will be made available. By the way this contact came through the Semmes Camp web site.

On behalf of Camp11 we hope that all of you have a very Merry Christmas. Let us be thankful that God gave us the greatest gift to mankind, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we move into the New Year let us resolve to be ever more diligent in the defense of the Confederate Veteran's good name.

In closing I once again urge you to be faithful in your prayer efforts. We can all benefit from a bent knee, bowed head, and a sincere prayer from the heart.

Best regards,

Terry W. "Beetle" Bailey

Editor, The Admiral's Log

## Minutes

Admiral Semmes, Camp 11

24 November 2014

Sons of Confederate Veterans Commander Ringhoffer called the meeting to order and called on the Assistant Chaplain Sid Phillips III for the invocation. Then the Commander led the Camp in the pledge and salutes.

The program was Davidson's Raid. 1st Lt. Commander Bailey described the raid which the yankees began in Baton Rouge and finally retreated with the abortion of the mission. The mission was to cut the Mobile and Ohio Railroad near the Mississippi/Alabama state line. On December 5, the sesquicentennial of the operation is being recognized in Green County, MS.

Boatswain Tom Root read a selection from the memoirs of Admiral Semmes. The excerpt reflected on the activities of the crew in Kingston, Jamaica. The aftermath of the shore leave is quite humorous.

There were no reports from the Paymaster or the Adjutant.

The Christmas Party will be December 14 at 6:00pm at the Dew Drop Inn. Cost is \$15 per person.

The Lee-Jackson salute is January 18 at 2:00pm at Confederate Rest in Magnolia Cemetery.

Compatriot DuPree distributed copies of the Nominating Committee Report. He also reported that the 2nd National is flying at Confederate Rest.

The Camp received an anonymous donation of \$4,750 for work at Ft. McDermott.

The Camp received the donation of large painting.

The death of Compatriot John O'Donnell-Rosales was recognized.

The first check of \$50.00 to the Camp from the placenta research project was received.

1st Lt. Commander Bailey reported on the website and the Facebook page.

There was no old business.

Under new business, Compatriot DuPree brought the report of the Nominating Committee which was approved by acclamation. Officers for 2015-16 are as follows:

Commander J. E. (Joe) Ringhoffer

1st Lt. Commander T. W. (Beetle) Bailey

2nd Lt. Commander David Smithweck

Adjutant W. P. Rodgers (Bill)

Paymaster C. E. Christmas (Charlie)

Judge Advocate David Toifel

Chaplain S. C. Phillips III (Sid)

Assistant Chaplain Stephen Kennedy

Quartermaster Darrell Neese

Boatswain T. M. Root (Tom)

Surgeon S. C. Phillips, Jr. (Sid)

Color Sergeant S. M. Ellison (Steve)

Sergeants-at-Arms C. E. Turberville (Claude) and Dustin Marshal

The membership applications of Gerald (Jerry) Coggin and Lyle Stokley were approved unanimously.

Pins were presented to Jerry, Lyle and Ed Travis.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned with the benediction by Assistant Chaplain Phillips and the charge of Lt. General Stephen D. Lee by 1st Lt. Commander Bailey.

## A Sesquicentennial Moment

Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>: Col. Bob McCulloch [2<sup>nd</sup> Mo. Cav., CSA], with a Texas cavalry brigade stops Davidson's West Pascagoula Raid at McLeod's Mill in Greene County, Mississippi. McCulloch's actions saved the Mobile and Ohio RR from Yankee destruction.

Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>: The Battle of Nashville. The Army of Tennessee ceases to exist. Outnumbered 2:1, the CSA suffered an estimated 1500 killed or wounded and 4500 soldiers were taken prisoner.

Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>: The federal pursuit of Hood's army is frustrated by the rear guard. The Confederate rear guard is cavalry under Gen. N. B. Forrest and infantry under Gen. E.C. Walthall. Here are Union Gen. George Thomas' remarks about the rear guard: "He had formed a powerful rear guard, made up of detachments from all his organized force, numbering about 4000 infantry under General Walthall, and all available cavalry under Forrest. With the exception of the rear guard, his army had become a disheartened and disorganized rabble of half-armed and barefooted men, who sought every opportunity to fall out by the wayside and desert their cause to put an end to their sufferings. The rear guard, however, was undaunted and did its work bravely to the last."

Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>: A Federal column leaves Memphis for a raid on the Mobile and Ohio RR.

Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>: Savannah, Georgia falls to Sherman's army of marauders.

Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>: The Army of Tennessee crosses the Tennessee River and marches towards Tupelo, Mississippi. [Ed. Note: From Tupelo my ancestor, Wood Hallum, walked 60 miles to his home in Calhoun County, Mississippi. The war was over for him.]

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

## WBTS Usage

General orders: A set of orders that outlined the action to be taken by specified bodies of soldiers.

Homegrown Yankee: A Unionist native-born to the South.

Horse holder: In general, cavalry units fought, not on horseback, but dismounted, which meant that one man in every four horse soldiers held his own mount and those of his three comrades in the rear of the battle line. Such necessities meant that an engagement by cavalry reduced the active fighting force by 25 percent.

"Journal of the Southern Historical Society": A periodical largely devoted to Southern views and accounts of the war. Launched in Richmond in 1876, publication continued until forty-nine volumes had been issued.

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

## Confederate Birthday

BG Archibald Gracie: December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1832

BG Daniel Harris Reynolds was born in Ohio on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1832. He moved to Tennessee and finally settled in Lake Village, Arkansas in 1858 where he was an attorney. In 1861 he organized the First Arkansas Mounted Rifles and was elected captain. Reynolds served at Wilson's Creek and Pea Ridge. Despite any formal military training or experience he was a natural leader and moved steadily through the ranks. He was commended for his actions at Chickamauga. From March to May 1864 he was a brigade commander with the garrison at Mobile. Reynolds and his brigade went on to serve in the Atlanta Campaign and at the battles at Franklin and Nashville. His brigade was part of the rear guard as the Army of Tennessee retreated to the plains of Mississippi. His commitment to the Confederate cause apparently never wavered; although he hoped the Yankees would end the "hopeless war," he believed "anything is preferable to submission, even death itself." The war ended for Reynolds at Bentonville in March 1865 when a Federal artillery round cost him a leg. After his return to Arkansas in June 1865, he received a presidential pardon and resumed his legal career.

“The war is over and we failed,” Reynolds admitted. “Nothing do I regret so much as the loss of our cause.” He remained proud of the men in his brigade and wrote, “We lost many noble men, but those who did their duty like men will ever be held in grateful remembrance by ... the friends of constitutional liberty everywhere.” BG Daniel Harris Reynolds died on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 1902 and is buried in the Lake Village Cemetery.

[Source: Encyclopedia of Arkansas and Civil War News]

#### Quotes from our Heroes

"But to pretend that we did not have the legal, constitutional right to secede from the Union is to stultify ourselves in falsification of history.

Thomas Nelson Page

1892

A Confederate officer at Gettysburg, Captain Barziza, described the contrast between Gettysburg and Fredericksburg:

“Whilst in Gettysburg, I could not but remark the difference between the conduct of our army and that of the enemy in invading our country. Here stood the town, after three day’s hard fighting around and in it, almost entirely untouched. No wanton destruction of property of any description could be seen; no women and children complained that they were homeless and beggars. Then I called to mind the scenes around the city of Fredericksburg the winter previous; private houses sacked and burned, books, furniture, and everything perishable utterly destroyed; women flying from burning houses with children in their arms, and insult and outrage at full license”. [from an article on the Abbeville Institute web site]

#### WBTS Trivia

“Upon the collapse of the Confederacy, P.G.T. Beauregard, his officers, and men were owed a huge sum of back pay. The general and each member of his staff accepted one silver dollar as “mustering out pay—perhaps the last hard money still circulating in the South.”

“The Amazing Civil War” by Webb Garrison

During the Mexican War Admiral Semmes commanded the USS Somers.

The Confederate Naval School was housed on the CSS Patrick Henry.

#### Events

January 18<sup>th</sup>: Camp 11 Lee/Jackson Salute at Confederate Rest in Mobile’s Magnolia Cemetery, 2pm.

The Bicentennial of the Battle of New Orleans in Chalmette, La. on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. <http://neworleans1815.cottonbaler.com/>

Feb 28<sup>th</sup>: Headstone dedication ceremony in Magnolia Cemetery. Details will be forthcoming.

April 11<sup>th</sup>: Division Heritage Rally and Confederate Memorial service at Ft. McDermott. Details will be forthcoming.

#### A Note from the Editor’s Desk

I must take a moment to thank 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander David Smithweck for all of the books he has given me over the past few months. This is important as I am constantly searching resources for articles to put into The Admiral’s Log.

Recently he gave me several volumes of “Southern Historical Society Papers”. I have not seen a copyright date in any of the books. But the books are like Dr. Sid Phillips, they’re old!

Ironically the first volume I picked up to pursue was Vol. III which had an article about the defense of Mobile by Gen. Dabney H. Maury. The volume also had Carlton McCarthy's "Detailed Minutiae of Soldier Life". Carlton McCarthy is one of my favorite post WBTS writers.

In this volume there is a copy of a letter that Maury wrote to Jefferson Davis on December 25, 1871. There was one particular quote in the letter that made the Confederate Pride in my heart swell up to the bursting point. I am sure the following quote will have the same effect on you.

"Nothing in the history of those anxious days appears to me more touching and devoted than the conduct of the garrison of Mobile. . . . . near half their force was destroyed, and then made good their retreat in good order. After reaching their encampment near Cuba, they preserved the dignity of brave and devoted men who had staked all and lost all save honor. . . . . I think there was no day on which they would not have attacked and beaten a superior force of the enemy."

"I reflect with satisfaction that it was my privilege to command Confederate troops in our last great battle, and that those troops behaved to the last with so much courage and dignity."

Thomas DiLorenzo is a favorite historian and writer. All of you are familiar with his truth-revealing books about Lincoln. Recently he wrote "Why They Raped, Pillaged, and Plundered: General Sherman's Professed Hatred of Self Government". In the article he references "South Carolina Civilians in Sherman's Path: Stories of Courage Amid Civil War Destruction" by Karen Stokes. The following excerpts come from DiLorenzo's article.

"A New York newspaperman who was "embedded" with Sherman's army (to use a contemporary term) wrote that "There can be no denial of the assertion that the feeling among the troops was one of extreme bitterness towards the people of the State of South Carolina." The *Philadelphia Inquirer* cheered on as Sherman's army raped, pillaged, burned, and plundered through the state, calling South Carolina "that accursed hotbed of treason." In a January 31, 1864 letter to Major R.M. Sawyer, Sherman explained the reason why he hated the South in general and South Carolina in particular, so much. The war, he said "was the result of a false political doctrine that any and every people have a right to self-government." In the same letter Sherman referred to states' rights, freedom of conscience, and freedom of the press as "trash" that had "deluded the Southern people into war. Sherman's subordinates expressed similar opinions."

Shortly after the war ended some prominent Northerners began to pour into South Carolina to revel in the scenes of destruction (and to steal whatever they could). The goofy Brooklyn, New York, Reverend Henry Ward Beecher went on one such excursion and gave a speech while standing under a giant U.S. flag in Charleston in which he declared:

"Let no man misread the meaning of this unfolding flag! It says, 'GOVERNMENT hath returned hither.' It proclaims in the name of vindicated government, peace and protection to loyalty; humiliations and pains to traitors. This is the flag of sovereignty. The nation, not the States, is sovereign. Restored to authority, this flag commands, not supplicates . . . . There may be pardon [for former Confederates], but no concession . . . . The only condition of submission is to submit!"

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY HEW YEAR

<http://scvsemmes.org/index.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/admiralsemmes11?ref=hl>

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**