

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. By this time we hope all of our deer hunters have meat in the freezer and a good tale to accompany it.

Our Lee/Jackson Salute at Confederate Rest was magnificent. I do not understand weather patterns, but it seems that the good Lord always smiles on our camp when we have a service at Magnolia Cemetery.

One of the best parts of our camp meetings is the reading from the Admiral's memoirs by Boatswain Tom Root. Tom was our Lee/Jackson keynote speaker. Needless to say we were not disappointed.

We want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of you who attended the ceremony as well as a hearty thank you to the organizers and participants. The 24th Mississippi Infantry, the 15th Confederate Cavalry, and the 4th Alabama Cavalry filled the ranks of our color guard. Also I would be remiss to not thank Joe Dupree for his effort. Joe is our media/memorials chairman and always does an exceptional job in putting together camp events. Again, thank you.

There were some new faces at our ceremony. Hopefully they will become a part of our camp.

Our foray into the realm of the World Wide Web is paying off handsomely. Our web site, which is managed by Compatriot Joe Locicero, continues to do well. Our Camp 11 Facebook page now has over 1000 "likes".

Please continue with your prayers for our camp and our members. May the Heavenly Father continue to bless us as we do our part in preserving the Heritage of our ancestors.

Best regards,

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

Lee and Jackson

The historian James Robertson called Jackson "a man of arms surrounded by faith," and said Jackson's biography was "the life story of an extraordinary man who became a general." He was more than a master military mind. Jackson, as one of his former students said, was "a soldier of the cross."

The Northern essayist and Republican partisan E.L. Godkin wrote following the death of "Stonewall" Jackson in 1863 that Jackson was "the most extraordinary phenomenon of this extraordinary war. Pure, honest, simple-minded, unselfish, and brave, his death is a loss to the whole of America, for, whatever be the result of this war, the United States will enjoy the honor of having bred and educated him." Godkin claimed him because he recognized that Jackson was more than a representative of the South, he was an American hero, pure and simple. [Source: Brion McClanahan, "The Politically Incorrect Guide to Real American Heroes".]

“Thomas J. Jackson was “one of the most remarkable soldiers we have ever known. His master of two of the greatest elements for victory in war—surprise and envelopment—never has been surpassed. His magnetic personal leadership, which so dominated and inspired his men, constituted only one of his many attributes of greatness.” General Douglas MacArthur

The following is an excerpt of the comments by Jefferson Davis on the life of Robert E. Lee as published by "The Lee Monument Association" on May 4, 1870.

"He now sleeps in the land that he loved so well, and that land is not Virginia only, for they do injustice to Lee who believes he fought only for Virginia. He was ready to go anywhere, on any service for the good of his country, and his heart was as broad as the fifteen states struggling for the principles that our forefathers fought for in the Revolution of 1776. He sleeps with the thousands who fought under the same flag--and happiest they who first offered up their lives;--he sleeps in the soil, to him and to them most dear. That flag was furled when there was none to bear it. Around it were assembled a remnant of the living, to do honor to his memory, and there is an army of skeleton sentinels to keep watch above his grave. This good citizen, this gallant soldier, this great general, this true patriot, had yet a higher praise than this or these, he was a true Christian. The Christianity, which ennobled his life, gives to us the consolatory belief that he is happy beyond the grave."

"How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said-
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?"

The soul that on Jesus doth lean for repose,
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

“Keep steadily in the view of the great principles for which you contend...The safety of your homes, and the lives of all you hold dear depend upon your courage and exertions. Let each man resolve to be victorious, and that the right of self-government, liberty, and peace shall find him a defender.”
Gen. Robert E. Lee, Sept. 9th, 1861

Our commitment to the Heritage is very eloquently stated in this quote from the Missouri Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans.

“We the people, the progeny of Confederate Soldiers and Sailors, will defend their honor and good name of those, our heroic Ancestors. We will respect and pay homage to the service and to their person. We will recognize their valor as they sought to preserve the government as it was handed down by the founding fathers. Deo Vindice

And if we needed another reason to be committed to the Heritage, here it is.

“Two years into the war, the Chaplains’ Association wrote an appeal to the leading Christian denominations of the Confederacy. These men of God recognized the righteousness of the cause that forced the Southland to repel the illegal invader. They spoke of —the sacred cause of defending our rights, our liberties, and our homesll [Jones, Christ in the Camp, 232]. They explained: —There is little necessity for exhortation to love of country, or love to our sons and brothers, who are fighting and falling in our defense. These emotions, strong in the beginning, have become more intense from the heroic fortitude of our noble army, and from the wicked designs and infamous conduct of our enemies. The history of the past two years of the war has amazingly developed and magnified the issues, and strengthened and deepened the convictions under which the conflict began.”

[Source: William Jones, Christ in the Camp, page 232.]

"Lincoln was the first President who usurped the power to rule the American people. McClure, page 56, says:
"When Lincoln turned to the military arm of the Government he was appalled by the treachery of the men whom the Nation should look to for protection. Nearly one-third of the officers in the regular army resigned....

These demanded that the South should be free; not conquered, not subjugated."

FACTS AND FALSEHOODS CONCERNING THE WAR ON THE SOUTH

George Edmonds

1904

A Sesquicentennial Moment

Jan. 2, 1865: The Federal raiding column attacking the Mobile and Ohio Railroad in Mississippi skirmish with Confederates at Lexington and Franklin.

Jan. 11, 1865: A party of Confederate officers and sailors arrives at Gravesend, England, ready to man the ex-Danish ironclad, soon to be named the CSS Stonewall.

Jan. 15, 1865: Ft. Fisher, N.C. falls to the Yankee invader. This effectively closes Wilmington to the blockade runners.

Jan. 23, 1865: Richard Taylor assumes command of the Army of Tennessee. Fewer than 18,000 men remain in the ranks. Taylor is ordered to send them to the Carolinas but many of the soldiers desert along the way.

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

WBTS Usage

Wet goods: slang for whiskey

Warf rats: a contemptuous reference to stevedores and roustabouts who were fit for military service.

Whistling Dick: An 18-pounder banded smooth bore manufactured at Tredegar Iron Works. It was later rifled but a defect in the rifling gave its shots an odd and distinctive sound. It was deployed to Vicksburg and played a part in the sinking of the Federal gunboat, Cincinnati.

Quarantine: A landing spot for vessels at which a quarantine officer checked the passengers and crew for contagious diseases.

Dandyfunk: a stew made from hardtack, molasses, and salt pork. [Mmm, yummy!]

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

Confederate Birthdays

Robert E. Lee: Jan. 19, 1807

Matthew Fontaine Maury: Jan. 19, 1806

Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson: Jan. 21, 1824

James Longstreet: Jan. 8, 1821

Richard Taylor: Jan. 27, 1826

Alexander Travis Hawthorn [Jan. 10, 1825 – May 31, 1899] was a lawyer and Baptist minister who is best known for serving as a brigadier general in the Confederate army during the WBTS. Serving in the Western and Trans-Mississippi theaters, Hawthorn led units at both the Battle of Helena and at the Engagement at Jenkins' Ferry. Born on January 10, 1825, in Conecuh County, Alabama, Alexander Hawthorn was the son of the Reverend Kedar Hawthorn and Martha Baggett Hawthorn. Growing up in Wilcox County, he attended school at Evergreen Academy and Mercer University. Moving to Connecticut in 1846, he attended Yale Law School for the next two years. At the end of the

Mexican war, Hawthorn returned to Alabama before moving to Camden, Arkansas to begin a law practice. After several years in Arkansas, the Hawthorns moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, where Alexander opened a mercantile business. With the outbreak of war and Arkansas's secession in 1861, Hawthorn returned to Arkansas, where he joined the Sixth Arkansas Volunteer Infantry, serving as lieutenant colonel. Hawthorn was promoted to brigadier general in February 1864. Taking command of a brigade that consisted of his old unit and three other regiments from Arkansas, he served in Brigadier General Thomas James Churchill's Arkansas division. Moving southward to Shreveport, Louisiana, in March 1864 in an effort to meet a Federal army advancing up the Red River under the command of Major General Nathaniel Banks, the Arkansans were held in that city while a separate Union force under the command of Major General Frederick Steele moved into southwestern Arkansas. Eventually, Hawthorn and the rest of the division were sent into battle against Banks near Pleasant Hill, Louisiana. Although suffering heavy casualties, the Confederates were successful in turning back the Federal advance into Louisiana. Turning to face Steele's army, Hawthorn and his brigade moved back into Arkansas with the rest of Churchill's division. Meeting Steele near Jenkins' Ferry, Hawthorn led his brigade in an assault through standing water. The Arkansans were repulsed and later attacks by other Confederate troops met with the same result. With the conclusion of the battle, Hawthorn and his brigade continued to serve in southern Arkansas. At the end of the war, Hawthorn fled to Mexico and later Brazil, where he resided until 1874. Returning to the United States, he resided in Atlanta, Georgia, where he became an ordained Baptist minister in 1880. Moving to Marshall, Texas, he was a minister until his death on May 31, 1899, in Dallas. He is buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Marshall.[Source: Encyclopedia of Arkansas]

Quotes from our Heroes

January 27th, 1863: Captain Semmes dropped anchor at Santo Domingo to unload prisoners from the Golden Rule and the Chastalaine and to take on some provisions. The city was founded in 1496 making it the longest continuously inhabited European settlement in the Americas. Our hero marvels at the history of Santo Domingo and at the same moment chides the Puritans.

"The old city of St. Domingo! How many recollections does it not call up? It was a large and flourishing city a hundred years before that pestiferous little craft, called the Mayflower brought over the cockatrice's egg that hatched out the Puritan." [A cockatrice is a mythical beast, essentially a two-legged dragon with a rooster's head.]

Source: "Memoirs of Service Afloat, During the War Between the States" by Admiral Raphael Semmes, Chapter XLI [Don't you just love the Admiral's biting wit!]

Events

February 20th-22nd: Reenactment of the Battle of Okolona, Miss.

March 7th: Confederate headstone dedication and memorial service at Magnolia Cemetery in Mobile.

March 14th-15th: Reenactment of the Battle for Cuba Station in Gainesville, Ala. This event will commemorate the sesquicentennial of Forrest's surrender at Gainesville.

March 28th-29th: The reunion of the descendants of the 38th Alabama Infantry Regiment at the Clarke County Museum in Grove Hill, Alabama. This will be the second time that your editor has attended this event. It is truly a time of some blessed Confederate fellowship.

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

April 12th: Ft. Blakeley SCV Camp Confederate Memorial Service at Point Clear, Ala.

April 25th-26th: Reenactment of the Battle of Selma. This is also a sesquicentennial event.

Admiral Semmes the Naturalist

On December 3, 1863, the CSS Alabama anchored off of the French colonial island of Pulo Condore which is off the coast of Viet Nam. Today it is known as Con Dao. The crew would remain anchored here for a couple of weeks in order to rest and repair after their voyage across the Indian Ocean. Many of the crewmen went ashore to hunt, fish, and explore. The Alabama had gotten the attention of a troop of apes who would come to the beach and sit to watch the goings-on of the crew.

"A hunting party,.....,shot one of the old apes. The rest scampered off.....The next morning, upon turning my opera-glass upon the beach, I saw the monkeys as usual, but they were broken into squads, and moving about in some disorder, instead of being seated as usual. I could plainly see some of them at work.....It was my usual hour for landing, to get sights for my chronometers. As the boat approached the whole party disappeared. I had the curiosity to walk to the spot, to see what these semi-human beings had been doing. They had been burying their dead comrade, and had not quite finished covering the body,.....The deceased seemed to have been popular, for a large concourse had come to attend his funeral. The natives told us, that this burial of monkeys was a common practice. They believe in monkey doctors, too,.....The ladies may be curious to know,...., how the monkeys of Pulo Condore treat their women. As among the Salt Lake saints, polygamy prevails.....The young lady monkeys are required to form matrimonial connections during their third or fourth season of their belledom;.....the parent monkeys will permit their daughters to sally out and return home as often as they please, after they have "come out," until three or four moons had passed. After that they were expected to betake themselves to their own separate trees for lodging."

"I was frequently startled, whilst we lay at Pulo Condore, at hearing what appeared to be the whistle of a locomotive--rather shrill, it may be, but very much resembling it. It proceeded from an enormous locust."

Source: Memoirs of Service Afloat, During the War Between the States by Admiral Raphael Semmes, Chapter XLIX.

Visit Camp 11 on the World Wide Web.

<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**