

March 2015



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.

Camp 11 is counting the days now until our grand day on April 11th. On this day we will have our Confederate Memorial Service, Alabama Division Heritage Rally, and the dedication of Ft. McDermott Confederate Memorial Park.

Our camp certainly appreciates the effort our members have put forth in the Ft. McDermott Reclamation Project. This is a perpetual project for Camp 11. There is much more work to be done to go from reclamation to maintenance. Let us all rally to our memorials chairman, Joe DuPree as he issues calls for assistance at Ft. McDermott. You can contact Compatriot DuPree at scvsemmes@aol.com or at 251-421-0491 if you are interested in working at Ft. McDermott. This is a real honor for Camp 11 and we encourage you to participate in this effort to preserve our history and heritage.

We have been promoting the April 11th event in social media, the internet, and on radio.

The event post on our Camp 11 Facebook page garnered over 3500 hits. On March 18th I joined Greg Stewart on a Mobile talk radio program called Scuttlebutt. It is a veteran's affairs program and ostensibly we were on there to discuss the move by the Florida NAACP to block three Confederate Veterans from the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame. While on the program I had the opportunity to promote April 11. The host was very receptive and asked that we contact the radio program again before the event.

Camp 11 is proud of Compatriot Forrest Neese and his wife, Jenny. They were featured in an article in the Life section of Sunday's [3/8] Mobile Press Register. Forrest is a medical professional and is also the commanding officer of the US Army Reserve 946th Forward Surgical Team. Major Neese has been deployed several times and we cannot thank him enough for his service.

Forrest and his wife are involved with Mobile's Aerofest which "is a festival celebrating our nation's heroes, the injured military service members and Veterans who have made enormous sacrifices in the name of a grateful nation."

Major Neese said that "Anything that helps support the veterans, we want to be a part of and help. We've got to get the message out that this festival is more than just a good time, that it's about communicating the reality that our veterans are living in.

Forrest is the son of long time Camp 11 member Darrell Neese.

On March 21st Camp 11 was represented at Beauvoir for Third Saturday Living History. This is a program that grew out of Beauvoir's Fall Muster. Several Mississippi SCV Camps along with Camp 11 use this time to share the Heritage as well as promote Fall Muster. This day was fun as we fired a volley for a couple from Brandon, Mississippi, who were married on the front porch of the Beauvoir Home. Most of the wedding party was from the Brandon SCV Camp. It goes without saying that we also have a lot of fun interacting with the guests of Beauvoir.

Our next meeting is on March 30th. Compatriot Ken Wyatt will bring us a program on the Historic Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville, Kentucky. We eat at 6pm and meet at 7pm at the Dew Drop Inn on Old Shell Road.

Sadly we must report the passing of Compatriot Allen Honeycutt. Our hearts and prayers go out to his family in this time of loss.

By all means send some "knee-mail" to the Good Lord. Ask for his guidance as our camp continues to work for the heritage. And of course we desire prayers for each other as we navigate our way down life's highway.

Best regards,

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

Minutes

Admiral Semmes, Camp 11
Sons of Confederate Veterans
23 February 2015

Commander Ringhoffer opened the meeting.

Chaplain Sid Phillips, III, gave the invocation.

Following the pledge and salutes, Commander Ringhoffer recognized guests who were Chris Roe, Clay Rodgers and Michael Peters.

The program was delivered by musicians Jed Marum (banjo) and Ricky Pittman (guitar). The selections, poignant and rousing, were "We Thrashed the Blue Invaders", "God Bless the Dear Old Confederates", "Point Lookout Prison", "Battle on the Sabine Pass" (43 men under Lt. Richard Dowling of the Davis Guards held off 5,000 yankees and captured 350 of 'em), "Elk Horn Tavern", and "Seminole War Song".

Following a short break, the business meeting began and 2nd Lt. Commander Smithweck had a first edition (1869) of *Memoirs of Service Afloat* and made the fine suggestion that Boatswain Root read the evening's passage from it. Boatswain Root graciously accepted the invitation and read the passage "When wine is in, wit is out" in which Admiral Semmes humorously recalled his treatment of drunken and disorderly seamen.

Commander Ringhoffer displayed a book which was donated to the Camp by Ross Glover. Entitled *Confederate Naval Stories: By the Men Who Lived Them*. David Toifel, Judge Advocate, took the book home to read and may present a book report at a future meeting.

Commander Ringhoffer mentioned the death of Compatriot Jesse Smelley. (Adjutant's Notes: The Last Roll form has been completed and distributed to Division and National contacts. Anyone interested in purchasing some of his reenactment gear from his widow, please email me with your telephone number and I will pass your interest on to Mrs. Smelley).

Commander Ringhoffer has met with the city officials of Spanish Fort regarding the 2015 Division Sesquicentennial Event dedicating Ft. McDermott Confederate Memorial Park. Scheduled at 1:00pm on April 11, 2015, there appear to be no substantive issues with the city officials. Shuttle service will be available to the fort from a nearby shopping center.

Memorials Chairman DuPree announced a work day on Saturday, March 14, at 9:00am. Bring gloves and a strong back. The basic outline of the program includes the following:

Proclamation by Governor Robert Bentley.

Posting of flags with musical accompaniment.

Invocation.

Tribute to Alabama Confederate soldiers.

Address by Division Commander Gary Carlyle.

Ribbon cutting.

Reading from the report of General Gibson, CSA.

Reading regarding the private soldier.

Reading regarding the general battle.

Closing remarks.

Benediction.

1st Lt. Commander Bailey announced that Cassie Gray is the speaker for the May meeting. She is a 'must hear' and will replace our normal program of show and tell.

James Franklin Holyfield was accepted unanimously for membership.

Compatriot Art Green distributed invitation to the annual gathering of the 38th Alabama Regiment to be held in Grove Hill.

Following the approval of the motion to adjourn, Chaplain Phillips delivered the invocation which was followed by 1st Lt. Commander Bailey reading the charge of Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee.

(Adjutant's Note: Thank you Tom Root for taking the minutes for this meeting for me...Bill)

A Sesquicentennial Moment, March, 1865

March 17: Canby begins land operations against the defenses of Mobile. Under his command are 32,000 troops as well as 13,000 troops under the command of Steele. CSA General Maury has fewer than 10,000 troops.

March 27: Canby's XIII and XVI Corps besiege Spanish Fort and the defenses of Mobile. Steele's advance from Pensacola is delayed due to the conditions of the roads. Our beloved Ft. McDermott was being defended by 195 courageous heroes.

March 31: As operations against Mobile continue, the besieging Union forces send commissary wagons to Steele's column advancing from Pensacola. Bad weather had delayed his march and caused supplies to run low. The Confederate ironclad "Nashville" supports the defenders of Mobile.

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

Quotes from our Heroes

"A meddling Yankee troubles himself about everybody's matters except his own and repents of everybody's sins except his own. We are a different people. Should the Yankees burn a Union village in Connecticut or a cod-fish town in Massachusetts we would not meddle with them but rather bid them God-speed in their work of purifying the atmosphere." ~Confederate General A. P. Hill in a letter dated 24 March 1863 to Union General J. G. Foster

"There was something potent in the Southern soil, which drew to it all who once rested on its bosom, without reference to race, or class, or station. Let men but once breathe the air of the South and generally they were thenceforth Southerners forever."

THE OLD SOUTH

Thomas Nelson Page

1892

"We Virginians do not go to the storied shrines of the past to do worship but rather to gain inspiration."— Douglas Southall Freeman

President John Tyler's thoughts on the impending War in 1861

"It was once fondly believed that there were certain great principles which the Revolution in England of 1688, and our ever glorious Revolution of 1776, had canonized and rendered sacred; but we live to see the day when those principles are derided and trampled upon. In vain does the victim of oppression demand, in the language of our Bill of Rights and of the Constitution, a fair and impartial trial. In vain that he invokes the principles of Magna Charta, which are as dear to him as they were to

any lordly baron at Runnymede or any Englishman since. In vain that he appeals to the judges and the courts. Such is in brief the night of despotism which now holds its gloomy reign over all the North. Those very people who basely submit to a despotism so unrelenting and cruel invade our soil without a shadow of right, and declare it to be their purpose to force us back into a union which they have destroyed, under a Constitution which they have rendered a mockery and made a nullity. Dream they of the blood that flows in our veins, derived from a glorious ancestry, when they talk of subjecting us to the same tyranny to which they themselves are even now subjected. A renewal of their acquaintance with our history would instruct them to regard our subjugation as a day dream, and nothing more. That history will inform them that this noble old State, through nearly three centuries of existence, has in no instance yielded to force or coercion. Unless I overestimate the character of her people, they would sooner, to use the language of an Irish patriot, "raze every house, burn every blade of grass, and make the last entrenchments of liberty their graves," than submit to the wrong and oppression with which they are threatened."

WBTS Trivia

Students of Virginia Military Institute won a special kind of immortality for their gallantry at the Battle of New Market on May 15th, 1864. They were not the first of their kind to go into combat, however. That distinction belongs to fifteen cadets of the North Carolina Military Institute who fought at the Battle of Big Bethel, Virginia on June 10th, 1861.

WBTS Usage

To Yankee: Southern slang for lying or embellishing a story.

Yaupon tea: A Southern substitute for tea made by boiling leaves and twigs of the yaupon tree then adding molasses and milk. A yaupon tree is a species of holly native to the Southeast.

Reportorial corps: a nickname for newspaper correspondents.

Major Armstrong: a nickname for Heros Von Borcke, a professional soldier and Prussian nobleman who served for a time as Jeb Stuart's Chief of Staff. The title was out of admiration for his great strength. Borke was scrupulous about his dress and also had the nickname of Major Bandbox.

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

Confederate Birthdays

William Felix Brantley was born in Greene County, Alabama, on March 12, 1830. He moved with his family to Mississippi as a child. By 1850 he was studying law in Carroll County, Mississippi. Two years later he opened a law practice in the non-existent town of Greensboro, Mississippi. On April 20, 1861 he joined the Mississippi Militia and was appointed as a captain. Throughout the WBTS he served the Army of Tennessee from Shiloh to Greensboro, N. C. He was commended for his actions at Lookout Mountain, Resaca, and Chickamauga. By the end of the war he was the brigade commander of what had been E. C. Walthall's Brigade. Unfortunately, after the war he became the victim of a "bushwhacking" near Winona, Mississippi. This was the result of a feud. General Brantley is buried in Greensboro Cemetery, Webster County, Mississippi. His headstone is rather unique in that his death mask is carved into the monument. [Editor's note: My ancestors who served with the 29th Mississippi Infantry Regiment were under the command of Brantley.]

Patrick Ronayne Cleburne

March 17, 1828 - November 30, 1864

The "Stonewall of the West"

A Confederate patriot and hero who was KIA at the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee.

Patrick Cleburne's words were prophetic and should stand beside Stephen D. Lee's Charge to the Confederate Veterans.

"Every man should endeavor to understand the meaning of subjugation before it is too late... It means the history of this heroic struggle will be written by the enemy; that our youth will be trained by Northern schoolteachers; will learn from Northern school books their version of the war; will be impressed by the influences of history and education to regard our gallant dead as traitors, and our maimed veterans as fit objects for derision... It is said slavery is all we are fighting for, and if we give it up we give up all. Even if this were true, which we deny, slavery is not all our enemies are fighting for. It is merely the pretense to establish sectional superiority and a more centralized form of government, and to deprive us of our rights and liberties."

Events

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.

March 27th-29th: Sesquicentennial at Blakely Park.

April 11th: Division Heritage Rally, Camp 11 Confederate Memorial Service, and the dedication of Ft. McDermott Confederate Memorial Park at Spanish Fort.

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

April 25th-26th: Reenactment of the Battle of Selma.

April 25th: Beauvoir Confederate Memorial Service at 2pm.

May 2nd: Surrender oak Festival at Citronelle commemorating the sesquicentennial of the surrender of General Richard Taylor.

May 9th-10th: Battle of Cuba Station at Gainesville, Alabama. This event commemorates the sesquicentennial of the surrender of General Forrest.

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**