

April 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.

Confederate History Month has flown right on by and our camp has had a premier month.

It started at Grove Hill with the reunion and Confederate Memorial Service with the descendants of the 38th Alabama Infantry Regiment. Art Green and I had a good weekend of Confederate fellowship.

In the meantime Claude Turberville was at Canoe Station for a sesquicentennial commemoration.

Then on April 11 our camp raised a mighty Rebel Yell at the dedication of the Ft. McDermott Confederate Memorial Park. There are entirely too many people to say thank you to for our accomplishment at Ft. McDermott. You can be assured that Camp 11 offers its heart-felt appreciation for all of you. I am also happy to say that many who could not attend have made very positive comments about the project and that certainly makes the Camp 11 heart swell.

On April 12 our camp was represented at the Blakeley Camp's service in Point Clear.

April 25th is the annual Confederate Memorial service at Beauvoir. The ceremony starts at 2pm. Our camp is participating in the living history program for the weekend.

On the same weekend is the 150th of Selma and camp members are participating in this event as well.

Indeed we have been some very busy Confederates in April.

Springfield, Louisiana is the burial site for Lt. Edward J. McDermott. We were thrilled to see reports that the local Confederates honored his grave with a historical marker describing the exploits of our hero. McDermott was killed at Lake Maurepas on a special mission for the CSN. Our Confederate friends in Louisiana should be proud of their accomplishment. Camp 11 certainly offers a sincere thank you for honoring Lt. McDermott. Interestingly enough there is a reenactment at Springfield this weekend. It is a top rate event in that area.

The Sesquicentennial of the WBTS is winding down. The Citronelle surrender commemoration is on May 2nd and then on the 9th will be the commemoration of Forrest's surrender at Gainesville, Alabama. Is this where we ask ourselves where the last four years went? We should put ourselves in the place of our ancestors. I am sure their four years of war was a life time. God bless our heritage!

We should all redouble our effort to preserve the heritage. We have now reached the season of the Lincolnites. Season of the Lincolnites has the ring of a horror movie!

We hope to see many of you on Monday night at the Dew Drop for the monthly meeting. Tom Root will bring a timely program about the destruction of Columbia, S. C.

Say your prayers.

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

Minutes

Admiral Semmes, Camp 11
Sons of Confederate Veterans
30 March 2015

The meeting was called to order by Commander Ringhoffer.

Chaplain Sid Phillips, III, offered the invocation.

Because of a last minute cancellation of the scheduled program, Commander Ringhoffer led a brief discussion on Polish soldiers who fought alongside the confederate soldiers. Judge Advocate Toifel then gave a discussion on the pivotal battle of Atlanta.

Boatswain Root delivered a reading from the Admiral's memoirs. While the CSA Alabama was in Singapore for repairs and refurbishing, he mused about the Chinese worker who led a simple and frugal life; and who was replacing the American worker on the West Coast.

Commander Ringhoffer commented on the reunion of the descendants of the Alabama 38th. The reunion was in Grove Hill. He also expressed appreciation for a grant recently approved by GHQ for the reclamation of Fort McDermott. He reported on the death of Compatriot Honeycutt who served in WWII. Also the last sesquicentennial event of GHQ will be in Shreveport on May 30. On April 4, the annual Sanders Lecture Series will be held at the University of Alabama. Confederate History Month posters are available. He also talked about transportation for guest and members to the Fort McDermott dedication. And he received a thank you note from a couple who married at Beauvoir at the time the Camp's cannon was on-site and was fired.

Compatriot DuPree reported that the 3rd National Flag is flying at Confederate Rest. The workday at Fort McDermott on March 14 was attended by 13 men. For the dedication on April 11, a shuttle service will be available from the rear of Cheryl's Restaurant to and from Fort McDermott. Time will be from 11:00am to 3:00pm. Several men in the Camp will assist with hosting and the program.

Webmaster Joe LoCicero highlighted new items on the website. One is a video from the Lee-Jackson Salute on January 18. The other concerns April and Confederate History Month.

New Business: Compatriot Kirk Barrett moved that the Camp pay \$325.00 to the City of Spanish Fort for a new post for the historical marker placed by the Camp in 1984. The post was broken as the City attempted to dig it up to relocate the marker at the correct site. The motion was passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned with prayer by Chaplain Sid Phillips, III.

A Sesquicentennial Moment

April was a busy time in Mobile 150 years ago. On the night of April 8th Spanish Fort is evacuated and the following day Confederate forces are overwhelmed at Blakeley. By the 11th Tracey and Huger were destroyed and Maury was preparing to evacuate Mobile. On April 12th Yankeedom arrives in Mobile and Montgomery. By April 30th General Richard Taylor is discussing surrender with General E. R. S. Canby.

April 27th: The SS Sultana suffers a boiler explosion and sinks in the Mississippi River. Over 1200 Union soldiers drowned making it the worst maritime accident in American history.

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

Quotes from our Heroes

In a speech before Confederate veterans in Charleston, South Carolina, on December 12, 1875, Gen. Hood encouraged the aging heroes to join him in memorializing the valor of the Confederate soldier: "Let us teach the children of the brave men who fought and fell in defense of their homes; what their fathers did...for the sake of truth, manhood, and the future, and that the sons may arise worthy of their sires."

Farewell Address from Gen. E. W. Pettus
Hd Qrs Pettus Brigade Salisbury April 28th/65

Soldiers:

You have now served your country faithfully for more than three years. On many hard fought fields your steady determined valor has been proved. In camp, and on the march your cheerful endurance of privations and labor, has won the admiration of the army and the country. Your prompt obedience of orders has justly won the admiration of your commanders. You have won a reputation, as regiments and as a brigade of which you and your dear ones at home are and ought to be proud.

Now you are to be subject to a new trial. The fortune of war has made you prisoners. You are to be marched in a body to your State, and there disbanded on parole. Your valor and good conduct was my greatest joy and pride; and it is confidently expected that the reputation of this command will be still preserved in this new trial. Though others may desert and disgrace themselves, & their kindred, let us stand together and obey orders. In this way we best contribute to our safety, and comfort; and preserve our characters untarnished.

Let our motto be, "Do our duty trusting in God."

E. W. Pettus
Brig Genl

"We have allowed our leaders and our soldiers to be spoken of as "rebels." Secession was not rebellion.

"We have allowed them to be called "traitors" -they coul...d never convict one Southern man for the stand he took in 1861.

We have allowed our cause to be spoken of as a "Lost Cause."

The Cause for which the Confederate soldier fought was not a "Lost Cause." The late war was fought to maintain the very same principle: the non-interference with just rights.

The trouble in 1865 was that the South failed to maintain this principle by force of arms. Being a Republic of Sovereign States and not a Nation she had the right to resent any interference with rights which had been guaranteed to her by the Constitution.

The South never has abandoned the principle for which she fought nor ever will." TRUTHS OF HISTORY Mildred Lewis Rutherford

"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."

Dabney H. Maury
Dec. 25, 1871

Confederate Humor

Woman: 'General, why is it the hair on your head is gray and your beard is black?

General Forrest: 'I don't know, ma'am, unless it's because I work my head more'n I do my jaws."

WBTS Usage

Glory hole: a gap in the enemy's line where one had to be careful in order to eep from being "blown to glory.

General Shaler: a horse valued by Gen. John B. Gordon who named the animal for the Federal officer from whom it was captured.

Knucks: a band of New York thieves who robbed soldiers and sailors after getting them drunk.

Panniers: these baskets were used to carry nonperishable food and medical supplies on the backs of horses and mules.

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

Confederate Birthdays

General Alfred Holt Colquitt was born in Walton County, Georgia on April 20th, 1864. He died on March 26, 1894 and is buried in Macon. Colquitt started the war as a colonel with the 6th Georgia Infantry and rose to a brigade commander. General Colquitt is known as the Hero of the Battle of Olustee.

WBTS Trivia

It is a little known fact that based on the number of troops involved; the Battle of Olustee was the bloodiest defeat for the Union during the entire WBTS. [source: exploresouthernhistory.com]

The first recorded instance of the "rebel yell" was at the Battle of First Manassas.

A "Sherman's necktie" was a bent or twisted piece of destroyed rail.

The only book that President Davis was allowed during his imprisonment after the war was the Bible.

Events

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