

June 2015



The Admiral's Log

Sons of Confederate Veterans

1211 Government St., Mobile, AL 36604

Raphael Semmes Camp 11



Dear Compatriots and Friends of Camp 11,

Greetings and salutations from Camp 11. We hope this edition of the Admiral's Log finds all of you doing well.

Our camp has been represented at several events over the past few weeks. On May 23 Tom Root and I went to Selma, Alabama. The occasion was the rededication of Confederate Circle and the second dedication of the Forrest bust. Confederate Circle is located inside of Historic Live Oak Cemetery. Our friends in Selma have done an exceptional job with the restoration of Confederate Circle. It is truly worth your time to visit.

On May 30 our camp was represented at Old South Day in Irvington, Alabama. Yours truly set up a camp and fired Matilda to the delight of our visitors. Compatriots Jessie Taylor and Stephen Kennedy also participated in this event which was hosted by the First Baptist Church of Irvington. We had a good day of sharing the Confederate Heritage with many interested visitors.

June 6 was the date of our annual division reunion. It was a good meeting and it was a pleasure to visit with our fellow Alabama Division members.

Speaking of Matilda, our Camp 11 mortar; the ole girl has served us well over the years. However she was in need of some serious refurbishment. Recently new wood was purchased and a friend who is a cabinet maker cut it, planed it, and drilled all of the necessary holes in the wood. As a result Matilda is sporting a new carriage. Currently she is up-ended and the carriage is getting a paint job. The tube has also been cleaned and painted. She is gradually coming back to life and will be just as lovely as ever.

Keep praying and we hope to see y'all Monday night at the Dew Drop Inn. Greet and eat at 6. Meet at 7.

Best regards,

Terry W. "Beetle" Bailey

Editor, The Admiral's Log

Minutes

Admiral Semmes, Camp 11

Sons of Confederate Veterans

25 May 2015

The meeting was called to order by Commander Joe Ringhoffer.

The invocation was given by Quartermaster Darrell Neese.

The speaker for the evening was Gloria (Mrs. Ken) Wyatt who is a member of the UDC.

Her topic was 'Memoirs of Unremembered Confederates'. She gave a series of biographical sketches on obscure or forgotten veterans. She mentioned Confederate Park near Marbury, AL. An act of 1964 established perpetual income for the Park.

Boatswain Tom Root read from Memoirs of Service Afloat the "sad tale of Ned" on pages 201-202. Compatriot Joe DuPree presented a copy of the certificate of appreciation to be presented to Ms. Knight of WKRK for her excellent coverage of the Fort McDermott dedication on April 11, 2015. Compatriot Dr. Barry Booth is donating a 20' flag pole to be erected at Fort McDermott. He is also donating the removal of several dead trees there.

The National Convention will be held July 16-20 at Richmond, VA.

1st Lt. Commander Beetle Bailey reported that on May 25, 1865, the ammunition dump in Mobile exploded. The explosion caused great damage.

Boatswain Root reported that the dedication of the bust of Nathan Bedford Forrest at Live Oak Cemetery in Selma on May 23 was a rousing success. He encourages those who have an opportunity to visit the cemetery to do so.

The debate over the illegal removal of flags at the Union Springs Cemetery continues, but assurances have been received that next year the flags will return unmolested!

Commander Ringhoffer displayed a tintype of Raphael Semmes which was recovered from a dump in Theodore. It is now in his possession.

Compatriot Kirk Barrett has produced a self-guided brochure of the battlegrounds of Spanish Fort which will be distributed free of charge.

Compatriot Joe DuPree reported the hand-delivery of a certificate of appreciation to NHQ for the generous grant for the restoration of Fort McDermott.

Consideration is being made regarding the cleaning of headstones at Confederate Rest at Magnolia Cemetery.

Ryan Fontaine was accepted unanimously for membership in the Camp.

The meeting was adjourned with the benediction of Quartermaster Neese and the reading of the 'Charge of General Stephen Dill Lee' by 1st Lt. Commander Bailey.

(Adjutant's Note: Thanks again to Tom Root for taking minutes for me again at his meeting. I also understand that he had some help from Joe DuPree. Thanks friends!)

Camp 11 Press Release

Raphael Semmes Camp 11

Sons of Confederate Veterans

June 23, 2105

We believe, as our Declaration of Independence proclaims, that "Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed ... whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government," and that we "are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States ..."

We honor the American patriots of the first Confederacy under General George Washington who fought to win our rights and those of the second Confederacy under General Robert E. Lee who fought to defend and maintain them.

We decry the use of unworthy tactics of hate-mongering or race-hustling to diminish the heritage bequeathed us by our American veterans. Their honor is above any political or monetary consideration and attempts to defame them is an unworthy practice beneath the dignity of any true American.

To those who urge the abandonment of our ancestors' sacrifice and heroism we offer the injunction, "Honor thy Father and thy Mother".

Mister Here's Your Mule

This song is the result of a practical joke that occurred early in the war at the Camp of Instruction in Jackson, Tennessee. It was a favorite rollicking song that was also published on sheet music.

"Pies" was a sutler who sold pies and other edibles from a dilapidated wagon pulled by a shaggy black mule. One day the soldiers hid the mule and then milled about the wagon as if nothing happened. Soon Pies was beside himself with anxiety over the missing mule. This level of anxiety only encouraged the Confederate jokers.

Eventually a soldier ambled over to a tent far from the sutler's wagon and shouted, "Mister, here's your mule!" Pies made a dash in the direction of the shout. Soon from all over the camp one could hear "Mister, here's your mule!"

Pies was frustrated and threw up his hands and begged for his mule. The mule, which was in a nearby tent, began to bray when he heard the sutler's voice. The mule's braying led to a spontaneous yell by all the soldiers, "Mister, here's your mule!"

Pies was good natured about the joke and with his mule back he sold his pies and left the camp.

"Mister, here's your mule" went into the lexicon of the Confederate soldier. Even though many soldiers did not know the origin of the song, "they realized that the expression exemplified the frustration they felt about army life. The soldier was no less a "fool" than the sutler who lost his mule." The song became so popular that Confederate regimental bands added it to their repertoires. The song inspired a dance number, "Here's Your Mule Schottisch", with a music cover featuring a mule and the caption, "Found at Last."

A farmer came to camp one day,
With milk and eggs to sell,
Upon a "Mule" who oft would stray,
To where no one could tell,
The farmer tired of his tramp,
For hours was made the fool,
By ev'ry one he met in camp,
With "Mister here's your Mule."
Come on, come on, come on, old man,
And don't be made a fool,
By ev'ry one, you meet in camp,
With "Mister here's your mule."

Source: "Singing the New Nation" by E. Lawrence Abe

June 19, 1864

The CSS Alabama Sinks

The CSS Alabama was a screw sloop-of-war built in 1862 for the CS Navy at Birkenhead on the River Mersey opposite Liverpool by John Leard and Sons Company. The Alabama served as a successful commerce raider, attacking Union merchant and naval ships over the course of her two-year career during which she never anchored in a Southern port. She was sunk on June 19, 1864 by the USS Kearsarge in a spectacular battle outside the port of Cherbourg, France.

The Alabama was a state-of-the-art ship---220 feet long, with a speed if 13 knots. The cruiser was equipped with a machine shop and could carry enough coal to steam 18 days, but the sails could greatly extend that time. Under her captain, Raphael Semmes, the Alabama wreaked havoc on US shipping through the West Indies, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans. In January of 1863 she sank the USS Hatteras after luring her out of Galveston, Texas. The Union navy spent an enormous amount of time and effort trying to track down the Alabama.

By the summer of 1864 Captain Semmes realized that after three years and 75,000 miles the Alabama was in need of an overhaul at a modern shipyard. Semmes made his way to Cherbourg, France where he attempted to go into dry dock. While in port the USS Kearsarge arrived off the coast of France to blockade the Alabama. On June 19 Captain Semmes sailed out of Cherbourg to confront the Kearsarge which resulted in the sinking of the CSS Alabama.

During her career the Alabama captured 66 ships and was hunted by more than 20 Union war ships.

Admiral Semmes address to the crew of the CSS Alabama on June 19, 1864

Officers and Seamen of the Alabama!--

You have, at link, another opportunity of meeting the enemy--the first that has been presented to you, since you sank the Hatteras! In the meantime, you have been all over the world, and it is not too much to say, that you have destroyed, and driven for protection under neutral flags, one half of the enemy's commerce, which, at the beginning of the war, covered every... sea. This is an achievement of which you may well be proud; and a grateful country will not be unmindful of it. The name of your ship has become a household word wherever civilization extends. Shall that name be tarnished by defeat? The thing is impossible! Remember that you are in the English Channel, the theater of so much of the naval glory of our race, and that the eyes of all Europe are at this moment, upon you. The flag that floats over you is that of a young Republic, who bids defiance to her enemies, whenever, and wherever found. Show the world that you know how to uphold it! Go to your quarters.

A Toast to the Alabama

Our home is on the mounting wave, our flag floats proudly free. No boasting despot, tyrant Knave, shall crush fair Liberty. Firmly we'll aid her glorious cause. We'll die boys to defend her. We'll brave the foe, where 'er we go, our motto no surrender!

Then sling the bowl, drink every soul a toast to the Alabama. What 'er our lot through storm or shot, here's success to the Alabama.

[Thanks to Compatriot Shannon Fontaine for sharing this.]

In remembrance and celebration of the honor and courage of the officers and crew of the CSS Alabama who offered their service to the Confederate States of America in defense of our freedoms and for the promise of American liberty.

[Thanks to Compatriot Joe DuPree for sharing this.]

WBTS Usage

In ordinary: a designation for a warship out of commission or lying at a dock.

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.

To park: to place guns, wagons, ambulances, or other wheeled vehicles at a set location and unhitch the animals used to pull them.

Source: "The Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage" by Webb Garrison

Inciting Hatred: Uncle Tom's Cabin

"The vindictive fabrication was published as a malicious libel against the Old South. It was mass marketed, requiring vast capital which could only be supplied by the largest banking houses in the United States and Great Britain. This book was promoted lavishly, like no other book ever before promoted in the history of Western civilization. The King James Bible and the Book of Common Prayer aside, ten times more copies were published and sold than any other work then known in the English-speaking world. Mrs. Stowe's corny novel could not have gained a large readership without the kind of advertising and fanfare that only powerful connections and big money could assure. Pushing her words was like selling a low-grade Hollywood film today. It might be tasteless, as so many films are, but with enough capital it is possible to sell almost anything. Northerners read Mrs. Stowe's absurdity, and were outraged because they believed it was true. Southerners read her lie. and were outraged because they knew it was false. There was enough resulting anger in the air to generate the desire in men to kill each other, an essential ingredient of war, ---exactly what the financiers behind this "literary" production wanted."

Source: Blood Money The Civil War and the Federal Reserve by James Remington Graham
Pelican Publishing Company 2012

Quotes from the Heroes

"With its [the Confederacy's] failure the United States of America that we know was born. The South, they said, rebelled. To crush the "rebellion" the North wrought a revolution. The old union of states federated together for specific and limited purposes died, to be succeeded by a new nation in which the states, North and South alike, have continually sunk from the sovereignty they so jealously maintained in 1787 to become little more than convenient administrative subdivisions of government."
Robert Selph Henry, 1931

"The monstrous conception of the creation of a new people, invested with the whole or a great part of the sovereignty which had previously belonged to the people of each State has not a syllable to sustain it in the Constitution." Jefferson Davis, 1881

Reflections from the Editor's Desk

Apparently 150 years of Reconstruction has caught up with our Heritage. Recent events have opened the flood gates of hatred to the Confederate Heritage. We of Camp 11 condemn the actions of a lunatic in the senseless murder of black Christians. We extend our deepest sympathy to the victim's families as well as to the community of Charleston, S. C. We also condemn the lap-dog liberal media and the cultural Marxists for using this tragedy to destroy a heritage and culture. The Confederate Flag and our monuments had nothing to do with this crime.

Alabama Division Second Lt. Commander made the following comment about this tragedy: "There's not a single Southern leader from the War Between the States era who would not have been absolutely appalled at what this person did. Not one. Lee, Jackson, Stuart, Forrest, Gordon- name one -would have all rejected this thug's views to the very depths of their souls, and they'd have abhorred his actions."

I can certainly add one more name to his list, Admiral Raphael Semmes. God bless the South!

Visit Camp 11 on the World Wide Web.
<http://scvsemmes.org/index.html>
<https://www.facebook.com/admiralsemmes11?ref=hl>

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**