

October 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.

It is with much sadness that we report the passing of Dr. Sidney Phillips. Dr. Sid was a dearly beloved member of our camp and he will be sorely missed. We are at peace with the fact that his earthly suffering is over and is at rest in the land of the saints. All of us who had the privilege of knowing Dr. Sid can truly say that our lives were better for it. Our camp offers our deepest condolences to the family of Dr. Sid.

Beauvoir's 29th Annual Fall muster was an overwhelming success. Camp 11 was represented at the event by Mr. Jessie Taylor, Ken Wyatt, and his wife Gloria. Yours truly was the event Provost as well as the narrator for the pre-reenactment festivities. During the same weekend Claude and Michelle Turberville were at the Newton, Alabama event. I am quite sure that Claude and his faithful steed, Champ, provided plenty of entertainment for the quests at that event. Our camp appreciates all of you who get out there and share our heritage.

I recently saw a church sign that stated God accepts "knee" mail. Let us never hesitate to get on our knees as we seek God's guidance in our lives.

Best regards,

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

A Sesquicentennial Moment

October 24, 1865

Henry Wirz, the commandant of the Andersonville, Georgia, Confederate prisoner of war camp, was found guilty of conspiracy to injure the health and lives of Union soldiers and murder. On November 10th Wirz was murdered by the Federal government after this mockery of a trial. We will not forget. Deo Vindice.

This Month in the WBTS

October 13, 1861: Alabama governor Thomas O. Moore bans cotton exports in an effort to put pressure on the European textile industry. The hope was that this would force them to recognize the CSA.

October 5, 1863: The semi-submersible CSS David attacks the Union ironclad New Ironsides at Charleston.

October 15, 1863: The CSS Hunley sinks in Charleston harbor during a test run. H. L. Hunley as well as the rest of the crew is killed in this incident. The Hunley is later raised and the crew is buried in Charleston with full military honors.

[Source: "1400 Days The US Civil War Day by Day" by C. Bishop, I. Drury, and T. Gibbons]

WBTS Usage

Hooker: slang for a prostitute. The name was not derived from Union Gen. Joseph Hooker but dates from a time before the war and possibly comes from a red-light district in New York City known as Hooker.

Hog and hominy: a succinct description of all Southern food.

Hog drivers: natives of Tennessee.

Parlor pets: a nickname for Union General John C. Fremont's escort.

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

WBTS Trivia

During one of the many campaigns in '62, a weary Robert E. Lee took a nap by the side of a road, down which shortly came a division of his doughtiest warriors, who, seeing their beloved commander at rest, hushed their voices and lightened their tread lest they disturb him.

About 150,000 Confederate soldiers were baptized during the war including a half-dozen generals.

On separate occasions during 1864, Episcopal Bishop and Confederate Lt. Gen. Leonidas Polk baptized Joseph E. Johnston and John B. Hood, setting some sort of a record, in as much as both of these gentlemen were full generals.

[Source: The Civil War Notebook compiled by Albert a. Nofi]

Quotes From Our Heroes

"Many a tribute has been paid to the soldier of the South by those for whom he fought, by those of the same blood and faith, by those who gloried in his splendid courage and pitied his terrible sufferings; but the highest compliment that ever was paid to the tattered and half-starved wearer of the gray was that of the Commander-in-chief of the Union armies who, in a council of war, took the ground that the Confederate prisoner was too dangerous to be exchanged."

-Mildred Lewis Rutherford, Truths of History

A Confederate Birthday

Brigadier General William Hicks "Red" Jackson was born in Paris, Tennessee on October 1, 1835. He graduated from West Point in 1856, serving as an officer in the US Mounted Riflemen during the Comanche and Kiowa expedition of 1860. At the start of the WBTS, he resigned his commission and entered the service of the Confederate States as a captain of artillery. In the Battle of Belmont, November, 1861, he was seriously wounded. After recovering, he returned to the field as colonel of the 1st Tennessee Cavalry and was promoted brigadier general, Chief of Cavalry in December 1862. He commanded cavalry at the Battle of Corinth, Vicksburg Campaign and the Meridian Campaign of February, 1864. During the Atlanta Campaign, he commanded the Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Mississippi and led his division through the Nashville and Murfreesboro campaigns. He was assigned command of all Tennessee Cavalry until the close of the war. He successfully isolated Croxton's Brigade during Wilson's raid in April, 1865. After the war, he engaged in stock raising and farming. In 1886 General Jackson purchased a stallion named Iroquois which was the first American winner of the Epsom Derby in Surrey, England. General Jackson died on March 30, 1903 and is at rest in Olivet Cemetery at Nashville.

Some Food for Thought

"The North has used the doctrines of Democracy to destroy self-government. The South applied the principle of conditional federation to cure the evils and to correct the errors of a false interpretation of Democracy." -- Lord Acton

"The institution of slavery supplied the militant union North with the rabble-rousing moral issue which is necessary in every modern war to make the conflict appear as a melodrama. The myth that it was fighting to free the slaves is everywhere except in the South firmly fixed in the American popular mind. These pseudo-moral issues which aroused such furious hatred were never fundamental for the North,"-Edmund Wilson, "Patriotic Gore"

"It was necessary to put the South at a moral disadvantage by transforming the contest from a war waged against states fighting for their independence into a war waged against states fighting for the maintenance and extension of slavery...and the world, it might be hoped, would see it as a moral war, not a political; and the sympathy of nations would begin to run for the North, not for the South."
--President Woodrow Wilson, "A History of The American People", page 231

"If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. The lie can be maintained only for such a time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic, and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is a mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State."

-Josef Goebbels

Admiral Semmes Makes the President Smile

At the end of the WBTS the Confederate government evacuated to Danville, Virginia. It was here that Admiral Semmes had the occasion to visit with President Davis and Navy Secretary Mallory.

"Mr. Mallory could scarcely be said now to have a portfolio, though he still had the officers and clerks of his Department around him. It was at once arranged between him, and the President, that my command should be organized as a brigade of artillery, and assigned to the defenses of Danville. The question of my rank being discussed, it was settled by Mr. Davis, that I should act in the capacity of a brigadier-general. My grade being that of a rear-admiral, I was entitled to rank, relatively, with the officers of the army, as a major-general, but was folly, of course, to talk rank, in the circumstances in which we were placed, and so I contented myself by saying pleasantly to the President, that I would waive the matter of rank, to be discussed hereafter, if there should be occasion to discuss it. "That is the right spirit," said he, with a smile playing over his usually grave features." [Source: Memoirs of Service Afloat During the War Between the States]

Admiral Semmes on the Treatment of President Davis

At the end of the WBTS Admiral Semmes had the occasion to meet with President Davis at Danville, Virginia. What follows is the Admiral's assessment of the capture and treatment of our president.

"I did not see him afterward. He moved soon to Charlotte, in North Carolina, and in a few weeks afterward, he fell into the hands of the enemy. The reader knows the rest of his history; how the enemy gloated over his captivity; how he was reviled, and insulted, by the coarse and brutal men into whose power he had fallen; how lies were invented to the circumstances of his capture, to please and amuse the Northern multitudes, eager for his blood; and finally, how he was degraded by imprisonment, and the manacles of a felon! His captors and he were of different races--of different

blood. They had nothing in common. He was the "Cavalier," endowed by nature with the instincts and refinements of the gentleman. They were of the race of the Roundheads, to whom all such instincts and refinements were offensive. God has created men in different moulds, as he has created the animals. It was as natural that the Yankee should hate Jefferson Davis, as the cat should arch its back, and roughen its fur, upon the approach of a dog. I have said that the American war had its origin in money, and that it was carried on throughout, "for a consideration." It ended in the same way. The "long-haired barbarian"--see Gibson's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire"--who laid his huge paw upon Jefferson Davis, to make him a prisoner, was paid in money for the gallant deed. A president of the United States had degraded his high office, by falsely charging Mr. Davis with being an accomplice in the murder of President Lincoln, and offered reward for his apprehension; thus gratifying his malignant nature, by holding him up to the world as a common felon. All men now know this charge to be false, the libeler among the rest. Gentlemen retract false charges, when they know them to be such. The charge made by Andrew Johnson against Jefferson Davis has not been retracted." [Source: Memoirs of Service Afloat During the War Between the States]

The Sound of a Train

My latest project is a program about the Beauvoir Cemetery and some of our heroes buried there. Recently while visiting Beauvoir I made a copy of the information booklet that is displayed at the cemetery. There is some very interesting and entertaining information in that booklet. I certainly appreciate the Beauvoir staff and volunteers who made this information available.

One particular obituary caught my attention and I must share it. The soldier was Capt. Ed Aldrich who was born in New York and enlisted in 1861 with the 2nd Missouri Calvary. This unit was commanded by Col. Ben McCulloch and was responsible for rescuing Gen. Forrest at the Battle of Okolona. The 2nd Missouri Calvary also engaged Davidson's raiders at the Skirmish of McLeod's Mill in Greene County [Miss.] in 1864. However in 1863 Aldrich was transferred to the staff of Gen. Frank Armstrong. After the war Aldrich settled in Marshall County [Miss.] and was a farmer. Eventually Capt. Aldrich settled in Gulfport but was not an inmate of the Jefferson Davis Soldier's Home at Beauvoir.

In 1907 the Confederate Veteran reported: "Capt. Ed Aldrich. This valiant old soldier came to an untimely death on Mar. 21 while walking on the railroad near Gulfport..... He was nearing his 80th year, and being very deaf, was an easy prey to a passenger train. His remains were interred at the Soldier's Home, Biloxi, Miss."

The sound of a train at Beauvoir will never be the same.

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

THE CONFEDERATE SOLDIER

by John William Penny

On a hill stood a soldier brave
Beside his earthly father's grave
And viewed the land he fought to save
With grieving heart and tear-stained eye:

"No horse, no cow, no dog I see;
No roof is left to shelter me;
The loved ones gone, where can they be?
O would to God that I could die!"

A voice was heard from oak and pine:

“Here stands that home, that home of thine.
Arise and build thine own design;
Go work and pray and sing;

Take thou this ox; with sturdy stroke
Fell thou the pine and ash and oak.
Thy home shall rise where there was smoke,
And thou shalt be the king.

Here stand the ash, the oak, the pine;
Here treasures lie in cave and mine,
Plastic to be in hand of thine.
Go thou and break the spell;

On Dixie’s land take thou thy stand,
To Dixie’s land yield heart and hand,
In Dixie’s land be thou a man,
And all may yet be well.

The Rebel yell shall be no more;
Concord shall reign from shore to shore;
Good will from men for evermore
Shall be thy destiny.

Thy Southland now shall ever shine;
Thy fame shall reach from clime to clime;
Thy victory won, thy royal line
Shall live in history.”
The Confederate Veteran, September 1914

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<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**