

November 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.

This month has been an exciting month for our camp. It started on October 31st when Claude and Michelle Turberville and I participated in Pioneer Day at the Clarke County Museum in Grove Hill. It is always fun to visit our friends in Clarke County.

The following week Claude and I hit the road again. He at the Stockton Sawmill Days and I at the Lundy Memorial in Crestview. Camp member John Tomlin joined Matilda and I for the Lundy service.

At Crestview the cultural Marxists wanted a Confederate Memorial and flag removed from a public space down town. The monument was dedicated to one of the oldest Confederate veterans in Florida. The descendants lowered the flag and removed the monument to a piece of private property. It was an honor for our camp to be a part of this auspicious moment. It was inspirational to see the Lundy family stand firm for the Heritage. After the ceremony we assembled at a local park for some Confederate fellowship. Here we got to visit with our good friends from Atmore, Kevin and Sondra McKinley. Of course the fellowship involved fried chicken and some truly remarkable banana pudding.

On the weekend of the 20th I ventured off to Camp Moore, Louisiana for their annual reenactment. This site is privately funded so it was a privilege to participate in this event as it is their annual fund raising event.

The SCV fellowship at this event is worth mentioning. There were Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama members present. I got to visit with our good friend from Louisiana, Paul Grambling. While visiting with Paul a lady from the Eastern Shore walked up and as it turned out we had several mutual friends. And when her boyfriend walked up I recognized him as a visitor to one of our camp meetings. It is a small world indeed.

I must also add that many of the people I spoke with were very complimentary of our efforts at Ft. McDermott. Many have visited and many wanted to know the location for future visits. Needless to say my Camp 11 pride came to the surface.

Our next camp meeting is on November 30th at the Dew Drop Inn. At 6pm we eat and greet. At 7pm we meet. Dr. Cecil Fayard will be our guest this month. I am sure we will be informed and entertained by Bro. Cecil.

The annual Camp 11 Christmas party will be on December 13th at the Dew Drop. Come join us for some holiday fun at 6pm.

The minutes from our October meeting will be sent via e-mail upon request.

Our needs are many. Our lord knows what they are. We also know that He is the giver of all gifts. As we enter the Holiday Season let us be ever mindful of the need for prayer and be thankful for all that our Holy Father has bestowed upon us.

Best regards,

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

A Sesquicentennial Moment

November 6, 1865

On August 2, 1865 the captain and crew of the C.S.S. *Shenandoah*, still prowling the waters of the Pacific in search of Yankee whaling ships, is finally informed by a British vessel that the South has lost the war.

The *Shenandoah* was the last major Confederate cruiser to set sail. Launched as a British vessel in September 1863, it was purchased by the Confederates and commissioned in October 1864. The 230-foot-long craft was armed with eight large guns and a crew of 73 sailors. Commanded by Captain James I. Waddell, the *Shenandoah* steered toward the Pacific and targeted Yankee whaling ships. Waddell enjoyed great success, taking six ships in the South Pacific before slipping into Melbourne, Australia, for repairs in January 1865.

Within a month, the *Shenandoah* was back on the loose, wreaking havoc in the waters around Alaska. The Rebel ship captured 32 additional Union vessels, most of which were burned. The damage was estimated at \$1.6 million, a staggering figure in such a short period of time. Although the crew heard rumors that the Confederate armies had surrendered, Waddell continued to fight. He finally accepted an English captain's report on August 2, 1865. The *Shenandoah* pulled off another remarkable feat by sailing from the northern Pacific all the way to Liverpool, England, without stopping at any ports. Arriving on November 6, Waddell surrendered his ship to British officials.

Captain Waddell and the crew knew returning to a US port would mean facing a Union court with a Northern perspective of the war. They correctly predicted the risk of being tried in a US court and hanged as pirates. This later proved to be accurate. Commerce raiders were not included in the reconciliation and amnesty that Confederate soldiers were given. Captain Raphael Semmes of CSS *Alabama* escaped charges of piracy by surrendering May 1, 1865, as an army general under Joseph E. Johnston. Semmes's former sailors surrendered as artillerymen.

Captain Waddell decided to surrender his ship at the unofficial home port of Liverpool, where Confederate Commander Bulloch was stationed.

The CSS *Shenandoah* sailed from off the west coast of North America via Cape Horn to Liverpool, a voyage of three months and over 9,000 miles (14,500 km), being pursued by Union vessels. CSS *Shenandoah* anchored at the Mersey Bar at the mouth of the estuary awaiting a pilot to board to guide the ship up the river and into the enclosed docks. Not flying any flag, the pilot refused to take the ship into Liverpool unless they flew a flag. The crew raised the Confederate flag. CSS *Shenandoah* sailed up the River Mersey with the flag fully flying to crowds on the riverbanks.

. "....., as former Confederate president Davis, now a Union prisoner, recalled in his memoirs, one thought did bring him solace: "the Confederate flag no longer floated on land, but one gallant sailor still unfurled it on the Pacific"... "Captain Waddell, commanding the Shenandoah cruiser."

An "Extraordinary Epic of Seafaring"

On November 6, 1865 the CSS *Shenandoah* sailed up the River Mersey and surrendered to a British naval vessel, thus ended an epic journey for Capt. James I. Waddell and his crew.

The CSS *Shenandoah* was commissioned on October 19, 1864 and she eventually arrived in the Bering Sea. In the Bering Sea the crew set about destroying the Yankee whaling fleet, which never recovered from the damage wreaked upon them by Capt. Waddell.

On August 3, 1865, after learning of the fate of the Confederate States of America, Capt. Waddell lowered his flag, stowed his guns, and set sail for Liverpool. He rounded Cape Horn and after a 9000 mile, three month journey, surrendered his vessel and crew. In her twelve and a half months of life upon the sea the CSS Shenandoah traveled 58,000 miles and circumnavigated the globe. The bravery and dedication of this ship for the cause of the CSA cannot be understated. On November 6, 1865 Capt. Waddell performed his duty with the honor, dignity, and respect that was common in many of our Confederate ancestors. We certainly count it as an honor and a blessing to claim the heritage of the CSS Shenandoah.
Lest we forget. Deo Vindice!

Journey's End by Roy Rawlinson

Our journey almost over now, no more that smoking gun...
Free the whalers of New Bedford to chase their midnight sun
Came ship from out of Liverpool, came ship, of dreadful news
This war that we fought valiant, this war, that we did lose.
The seven seas were then our home, our house, with sails unfurled
And we rode the nightmare breakers that do spin around our world
And now? Our land is dead, and gone, but spirit never die
Now watch ye men of Southern pride, we sail, with head, held high.
From 'Frisco down to land of fire, traverse the dreaded Horn.
Head North to meet Old Blighty on a cold November morn.
Tis there we sit to wait our fate, imprisoned lashed and tied
Bound fast to the Royal Navy, now nowhere left to hide.
How we trust this land of justice, where truth will now prevail
For the mighty Shenandoah, and the crew that she did sail.

November 10, 1865

November 10, 1865 is one of the darkest days in the history of this country. It was on this day that the Yankee government murdered an innocent man, Captain Henry Wirz. Here is a well-educated man who answered his country's call. Here is a man who in spite of being severely wounded continued to serve the CSA. Here is a man who under unimaginable circumstances continued to do his duty with dignity, humanity, and honor. Here is a man who was exonerated by the Yankee army only to be murdered by a vindictive Yankee government. Let us all take a moment to commemorate the life of our Confederate hero and martyr, Captain Henry Wirz.

James Madison Page, Lt., 6th Michigan Cavalry, wrote "The True Story of Andersonville Prison". His stated purpose of the book was: "I love my country; my whole country, and was no more loyal to the perpetuity of the Union in 1861 than I am today, but have come to the conclusion that after forty years we can at least afford to tell the truth." And here we are 150 years later and the truth is still not being told.

WBTS Usage

Gentleman private: a son of a plantation owner or respected professional who was eligible for an officer's commission but preferred to fight as a private.

Gibraltar of the West: a nickname for Vicksburg.

To go in search of his rights: a sardonic allusion to a soldier who had fled the battlefield rather than fight.

McClellan pie: Yankee hard tack.

Nellie Gray: a fast mare used by Gen. Fitzhugh Lee.

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

A Confederate Birthday

Brigadier General Robert Hopkins Patton was born in Ohio on November 2, 1826 and moved to Tennessee at an early age. He was a graduate of Cumberland School of Law and had a successful practice in Lebanon, Tennessee. Patton was active in politics and opposed secession until Lincoln called up volunteers to invade the South. During the WBTS he was elected colonel of the 7th Tennessee. Eight days after being promoted to brigadier general he was killed at the Battle of Fair Oaks on May 3, 1862. General Patton is buried in Lebanon, Tennessee at Cedar Grove Cemetery. [Note: It was at the Battle of Fair Oaks where Captain Wirz was wounded.]

Some Food for Thought

"The battle flag is not so much a symbol of hatred as it is an object of hatred, a target of hatred. It evokes a hatred of the visceral sort that we see manifest in [the] equating of the South of Washington, Jefferson, John Calhoun, Andrew Jackson and Lee with Hitler's Third Reich. What the flag symbolizes for the millions, who revere, cherish or love it, however, is the heroism of those who fought and died under it. That flag flew over battlefields, not over slave quarters. Hence, who are the real haters here?"-Patrick J. Buchanan

"I do not blame the people of the South for seceding, for the men of that party about to take the reins of government in their hands are her mortal foes..."
Senator Benjamin F. Wade of Ohio in 1860

"When, in after times, the passions of the day shall have subsided, and all the evidence shall have been collected and compared, the philosophical inquirer, who asks why the majority... of the stronger section invaded the peaceful homes of their late associates, will be answered by History: " The lust of empire impelled them to wage against their weaker neighbors a war of subjugation."

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE CONFEDERATE GOVERNMENT
Volume I Jefferson Davis 1881

"Before a Congressional committee Grant testified as follows:

"I refused to exchange prisoners because as soon as the South's soldiers are released from our prisons they rush back into the rebel ranks and begin fighting again. When Northern soldiers return from Southern prisons either they... never again enter the ranks, or if they do, not until they go to their homes and have a long furlough."

It is easy enough to see the cause of this difference between soldiers of the North and soldiers of the South. The former were forced into a war they were unwilling to fight, and millions believed unjust. The South's soldiers, every man, felt and knew they were fighting for their lives, their liberties, their homes, all that hearts hold dear. The very souls of the South's men and women were in that fight."

FACTS AND FALSEHOODS CONCERNING THE WAR ON THE SOUTH

George Edmonds

1904

This address was given by Commander Kevin McKinley at the Lundy Memorial service on Nov 7th in Crestview, Florida. Kevin is the camp commander of the Pvt. Carney SCV Camp in Atmore, Alabama.

The Courage of Being Southern

“What is courage? Webster’s says it’s ‘The ability to do something you know to be difficult or dangerous.’

When I hear the words ‘difficult or dangerous’ I think of the entire history of our honorable Southern ancestors.

From the Highlands of Scotland where St. Andrew’s bones are said to have been taken and later the nation of Scotland converted to Christianity after seeing an X in the clouds during a cataclysmic battle they were supposed to lose but instead they won because of their new found faith in God and their perseverance.

I think of their descendants who had the courage to cross an angry ocean which took many of their number to a watery grave.

Yes, their courage translated to their descendants who fought the British and eventually that courage took them to fight the Federals.

We know that courage was Bill Lundy. A mere boy when he followed the drum beat of war. It would be an uncontroverted fact to say he knew the stakes of the war. He knew the Yankees were here and therefore he knew all he held dear hung in the balance. Courage describes the man.

Billy Lundy knew the world before the war and he knew the world and he knew the world after. He may have viewed the post war world in the same manner as William Faulkner wrote of in the book *Intruder in the Dust*:

“For every Southern boy fourteen years old, not once but whenever he wants it, there is the instant when it’s still not yet 2 o’clock on that July afternoon in 1863, the brigades are in position behind the rail fence, the guns are laid and ready in the woods and the furled flags are already loosened to break out and Pickett himself with his long oiled ringlets and his hat in one hand probably and his sword in the other looking up the hill waiting for Longstreet to give the word and it’s all in the balance...”

Bill Lundy and the men of his generation had the courage to hang it all in the balance for what they believed in....do we?

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**