

January 2016



## 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.

By now all of you are aware that my beloved wife, Terri, lost her struggle with cancer. I also know that each and every one of you share my grief and your prayers are deeply appreciated. Terri was very supportive of me and my efforts to perpetuate the heritage of our Confederate veterans. She never missed a chance when introducing me or talking to someone about her husband that she did not mention the SCV. Truly she was the epitome of a Southern woman who believed in our cause. With the prayers and support of my Camp 11 family I will be able to move forward. God bless y'all.

On February 20<sup>th</sup> Camp 11 hosted its first Ft. McDermott Community Day. It was a successful endeavor and we look forward to having regular activities at Ft. McDermott.

Our next camp meeting will be on February 29 at 7pm [6pm if you plan to indulge in the world famous Dew Drop Inn hot dogs]. We have a very special program on tap for this month. Mr. Al Arnold will be our guest speaker. Al is the author of "Robert E. Lee's Orderly: A Modern Black Man's Confederate Journey". He is also a member of the Civil War Roundtable in Jackson, Mississippi. Al will have copies of his book for sale at the meeting. I am really looking forward to this program as I know you are too.

Our March meeting will be a program about Bishop Leonidas Polk. Our new friend, Bro. J. W. Binion will make this presentation. Bro. JW portrays President Davis and in the past has portrayed Bishop Polk. Yep, I am excited about our March meeting as well. I have always been intrigued by the life of Bishop Polk.

Speaking of Camp 11 programs; May is Show and Tell, September is the month we honor the birthdays of Admirals Semmes and Buchanan, and December is our annual Christmas gathering. That means that April, June, July, August, October, and November are open. Commander Ringhoffer and I are constantly in search of speakers and programs. If you are so inclined to do a program we will be glad to assign you a month. We will also gladly accept suggestions and contacts for our programs. At this point I have to brag on Camp 11. Over the years that I have been a member of the camp we have had some excellent programs. The effort our camp puts into this aspect of our meetings makes me look forward to every one of them.

Finally, keep up your prayers for all of our needs and especially those of Camp 11. I can assure you that prayer works as I have felt the power of prayer in my on life here lately. God Bless Camp 11.

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

## This Month in the WBTS

February 6, 1862: Ft. Henry falls to the Yankee invader.

February 16, 1862: Ft. Donelson falls to the Yankee invader. The loss of these two forts seals the fate of Kentucky and Tennessee.

February 1, 1863: Inflation has reduced the value of the Confederate dollar to one fifth of its prewar value.

February 12, 1863: The CSS Florida captures a tea clipper. The destroyed cargo is worth \$2 million.

February 14, 1864: Sherman's bandits enter Meridian, Mississippi and set about with the systematic destruction of the town.

Source: 1400 Days The US Civil War Day by Day by Bishop, Drury, & Gibbons

## WBTS Usage

Let her go, Gallagher: This enigmatic command meant to fire at will with everything at hand.

Alex Little: a nickname for Alexander H. Stevens, vice president of the CSA.

Cheese knife: a sword or a saber carried by an officer, and an example of the sarcasm of which enlisted men were capable.

Peas on a trencher: The Federal bugle call for breakfast.

## A Confederate Birthday

Commander John Newland Maffitt was nicknamed the "Prince of Privateers" which is not accurate given that he was an officer of the CSN. Maffitt was born at sea on February 22, 1819 on a ship bound for New York City. At the age of thirteen he entered the USN as a midshipman. In 1842 he was ordered to the United States Coastal Survey where he spent the next fourteen years. This hydrographic survey carried him from Nantucket to Savannah. In May of 1861 he resigned from the USN and was commissioned a lieutenant in the CSN. On August 17, 1862 he took command of the CSS Florida. In late 1862 Maffitt made a daring dash into Mobile Bay to refit and resupply at Mobile. On January 16, 1863 he departed Mobile and using bad weather and trickery he eluded no less than six blockaders as he made his escape. For the next year he and the CSS Florida roamed the Caribbean and Atlantic inflicting approximately \$15 million in damages to Yankee shipping. Due to bad health he relinquished command of the CSS Florida in Brest, France on February 12, 1864. He made his way back to the South and in the summer of 1864 he was given command of the CSS Albemarle. In October of the same year he took command of the blockade runner CSS Owl. Like Captain Waddell and the CSS Shenandoah Commander Maffitt surrendered the Owl at Liverpool, England. Commander John Newland Maffitt died on May 5, 1886 and is at rest in the Oakdale Cemetery at Wilmington, N. C.

"Among that devoted band of United States Navy officers whose home and kindred were in the South at the outbreak of the war, and who resigned their commissions rather than aid in subjugating their native State, there were none braver nor truer than our own Captain John N. Maffitt, who, yielding to necessity, severed the strong ties of a service under the old flag in which he had long distinguished himself, and relinquished not only a conspicuous position directly in the line of speedy promotion to the rank of admiral, but sacrificed at the same time his entire fortune, which was invested in the North, and which was confiscated shortly afterward by the Federal Government. He was always considered one of the best officers and most high-toned gentlemen of the old service. For some years he was connected with the coast survey, and Professor Bache, the head of the department, declared that if Maffitt was taken from him he could not supply his place in all the navy." He added: "He is not only a thorough seaman and game to the backbone, but a man of superior intellect, a humorist of rare excellence, and one of the most delightful companions. There is no position in his profession which Maffitt is not capable of filling with honor and distinction."

Source: Southern Historical Society Papers, August 2, 1896

“The cause defended was that of self-government and constitutional liberty. Statesmen have grasped the fundamental principles which, from the mere attrition of our armies, fell with their standard, and in the legislative halls of our country they are making a glorious effort for the preservation of the heritage bequeathed to us in 1787. The cry from the North was the "Union! The Union!"---but they manifested naught save contempt for the Constitution that sealed and sanctified that Union.”

Source: Captain Maffitt’s Memorial Day Address, May, 1879

#### Food for Thought

“The New Englander must have something to persecute, and as he has hunted down all his Indians, burnt all his witches, and persecuted all his opponents to death, he invented Abolitionism as the sole resource left to him for the gratification of his favored passion. Next to this motive principle is his desire to make money dishonestly, trickily, meanly and shabbily. He has acted on it in all his relations with the South, and has cheated and plundered her in all his dealings by villainous tariffs.”

William Howard Russell, London Times correspondent.

"Should one, hearing the phrase "the two sections", take the map of the American Union and study its salient features, he would declare that the two sections were by natural geographical division the East and the West; should he study the commerce of the country with its vast currents and tides, its fields of agriculture and manufacture, he would be impelled to declare that by all the inexorable laws of interest they were the East and the West. And yet we who stand amid the incontestable evidences of events know that against all laws, against all reason, against all right, there are two sections of this country, and they are not the East and the West, but the South and the rest of the Union."

THE OLD SOUTH, Thomas Nelson Page 1892

“Here’s to the Confederates that grow the cotton, the Yanks that keep up the price by blockade, the Limeys that pay the high price for it—to all three and a long war.”

The toast of British skippers working the cotton trade during the WBTS.

#### A Musician’s Truce

“Music was often a peacemaker of sorts. In the fighting before the fall of Atlanta, the brass band of Major Arthur Shoaff’s battalion of Georgia Sharpshooters gave to the cause their expert cornettist. Each evening after supper, the musician came to the front lines and played for the Confederates along the entrenchments. When firing was heavy he failed to appear.

Across the lines, the Federals would shout, “Hey Johnny! We want that cornet player.”

“He would play, but he’s afraid you’ll spoil his horn.”

“We’ll hold fire.”

“All right, Yanks.”

The cornettist would then mount the works and play solos from operas, and sing tunes like “Come Where My Love Lies Dreaming” and “I Dream I Dwelt in Marble Halls” in a fine tenor.

Colonel James Cooper Nisbet, who was on hand, never forgot the scene: “How the Yanks would applaud! They had a good cornet player who would alternate with our man.”

The concert over, the firing would be resumed.”

The Civil War Strange & Fascinating Facts by Burke Davis, page 49.

#### The WBTS, A Boy’s War

“George S. Lamkin of Winona, Mississippi, joined Stanford’s Mississippi Battery when he was eleven, and before his twelfth birthday was severely wounded at Shiloh.”

“E. G. Baxter, of Clark County, Kentucky, is recorded as enlisting in Company A, 7<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Cavalry in June, 1862 when he was not quite thirteen, and a year later was a second lieutenant.”

“John Bailey Tyler, of D Troop, 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Cavalry, born in Frederick, Maryland, in 1849, was twelve when war came. He fought with his regiment until the end, without a wound.”

The Civil War Strange & Amazing Facts by Burke Davis, page 66

#### Foreigners in the Yankee Army

An ex-Confederate soldier said, “The Confederate army was never whipped! We were overpowered. It was the foreigners! You never would have beaten us if it hadn’t been for the foreigners that made up your armies.”

“...if you stop and think about it, this Confederate soldier had hit on something worth considering. Recently I came across an article by an Andy Waskie called “Foreign Soldiers in the American Civil War”. Mr. Waskie noted: “Based on enlistment rolls and other official reports and stated in round figures, out of approximately 2,000,000 Union soldiers enlisted during the war over two-thirds were native-born Americans. Thus, only under one-third (1/3) of all troops were non-natives...” Now stop and think about that for just a moment. The “only under one-third” that he almost seems to dismiss with a cavalier attitude, if his figures are correct, comes to something like 660,000 foreign-born soldiers in the Union armies! Folks, for my money, that’s a lot of foreign input.”

Commentary by Al Benson, Jr in “Brothers War” or European Invasion”

Visit Camp 11 on the World Wide Web.

<http://scvsemmes.org/index.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/admiralsemmes11?ref=hl>

Camp minutes are available upon request. Thank you.

*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**