

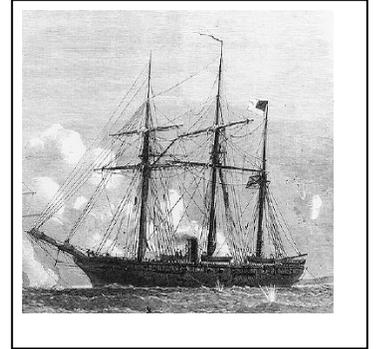
The Admiral's Log

Sons of Confederate Veterans

1211 Government St., Mobile, AL 36604

Raphael Semmes Camp 11

June 2012



Dear Friends and Compatriots of Camp 11,

Welcome to the June edition of the Log. We have been to several events this month so let's not waste time and get on with the news of this month.

On June 2nd I escorted Matilda to Ellisville, Mississippi, for the 100th anniversary of the local Confederate Monument. This event was hosted by the Jones County Historical Society and the Rosin Heels SCV Camp of Laurel, Mississippi. The good ole southern Christian Confederate fellowship was wonderful. The fried chicken and trimmings lunch afterward was also mighty fine.

Our good friend from the Rosin Heels Camp, Compatriot Carl Ford, was the keynote speaker. He made one point that really caught my attention. He was talking about war criminals and of course Sherman was mentioned. His point was that Sherman was more interested in the destruction of innocent civilians than he was in freeing the prisoners at Andersonville. It would have been simple enough for Sherman to send a wing of his marauders to Andersonville yet he did not. However by this time of the WBTS Sherman was doing what he was good at doing.

Then on Sunday, June 3rd, Stephen Ellison, Mr. Jessie Taylor, and I participated in an event at Beauvoir. This event was a living history in commemoration of President Davis' birthday. We set Matilda up and when we had a group of folks gathered about we would fire off the ole girl. We also had over twenty different Confederate flags on display. This display brought many positive comments. Our friends at Beauvoir are very appreciative of our camp's support of events at Beauvoir. There were also SCV members from the Sam Davis Camp in Biloxi and the Maury Camp of Grand Bay. We also had a buddy, Larry Higginbotham, fall in with us. Larry is a member of the Augusta Grays Camp in New Augusta, Mississippi.

On the same day, June 3rd, Claude Turberville went to Monroe County for a Confederate grave marker dedication ceremony. He was joined there by other reactors as well as some SCV members of the Blakely Camp.

Our annual division reunion was held at Lake Guntersville State Park on June 8th. The venue at Lake Guntersville was beautiful. Lake Guntersville is the epitome of man's ingenuity and God's beauty.

The following men were elected to the top positions of the division; Gary Carlyle, Division Commander; Jimmy Hill, 1st Lieutenant Commander; and Carl Jones, 2nd Lieutenant Commander. It is my opinion that these fellows will make good leaders for the division over the next two years.

Several of our camp members received awards at the reunion. Charles Christmas and A. J. Dupree received brigade level meritorious service awards. Our adjutant received a brigade level Certificate of Appreciation. Commander Ringhoffer received a division level Certificate of Appreciation. Yours truly received a division level Meritorious Service award. On behalf of our camp I offer hearty congratulations to these fellows. Keep up the good work.

Our next camp meeting is on June 25th. We hope to see many of you there.

In closing let us continue to pray for each other as well as our camp. Pray for the strength and wisdom to live up to the heritage that has been bestowed upon us.

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

Minutes

Admiral Semmes, Camp 11
Sons of Confederate Veterans
28May2012

The meeting was called to order by Commander Joe Ringhoffer.

The invocation was given by Quartermaster Darrell Neese.

The pledges to the flags were led by Commander Ringhoffer.

Program:

Lt. Commander Beetle Bailey gave the program about humor and laughter related to the War of Northern Aggression. The program was dedicated to the late Compatriot Lewis Brasell. Lt. Commander Bailey shared many short stories, one-liners and jokes. The room was filled with smiling faces and laughter.

Boatswain Tom Root read from Admiral Semmes autobiography.

New Business:

1. Boatswain Tom Root read from Admiral Semmes autobiography. The selection highlighted Georgian Captain James Bullock. Captain Bullock was instrumental in the building of the CSS Alabama and sailed with Admiral Semmes on the maiden voyage. He left the Alabama and sailed from the Bahamas back to England. Admiral Semmes noted that Captain Bullock "had the honor to come out poor" at the end of the war.
2. The division meeting will be in two weeks at Lake Guntersville State Park. Attending will be Commander Ringhoffer and Lt. Commander Bailey. There is one resolution coming from our Camp to treat voting the same way that voting is held at the National SCV meeting. The division requires one

delegate per vote whereas the National rules allow a camp to use all its votes even if only one delegate is in attendance. Also there will be two constitutional amendments brought. The first will require a 14 day notice requesting funding from the division; the second provides for an Assistant to the Brigade Commander.

3. Murfreesboro, TN, is the site of the National Convention. Our Camp is requesting to host the 2015 convention here in Mobile. Richmond, VA, and Dallas, TX, appear to our only serious competitors.
4. Commander Ringhoffer expressed thanks to Bryan Clark for assuming the role of fund raiser coordinator. He also thanked Adjutant Rodgers for the job he is doing.
5. Lt. Commander Bailey reported on activities in the Southwest Brigade.
6. Roy Pope, Jr. and Tim Hughes were unanimously approved for membership.

Old Business:

There being no old business the meeting was adjourned by a closing prayer from Quartermaster Darrell Neese.

Respectfully submitted,
William P. Rodgers, Adjutant

The Human Toll of War

During the WBTS, the average mortality for chest wounds was 62%, for abdominal wounds 87%. The recovery rate for wounds to the extremities was much better but usually resulted in amputation. During the bitter winter of 1864 at Camp Douglas POW Camp 1,091 men died in four months.

Dear ancestor,

Your tomb stands among the rest, neglected and alone,
The name and date are chiseled out on polished marble stone.
It reaches out to all of us; it is too late to mourn.

You did not know that we'd exist, you died and we were born.

Yet each of us are cells of you, in flesh, in blood, in bone.

Our blood contracts and beats a pulse entirely not our own.

Dear ancestor, the place you filled some hundred years ago, spreads out among the ones you left who would have loved you so.

We wonder if you lived and loved, we wonder if you knew...that someday we would find this spot and come to visit you.

Author Unknown

History put into perspective.

"The poetry of history lies in the miraculous fact that once on this earth, on this familiar spot of ground, walked other men and women as actual as we are today, thinking their own thoughts, swayed

by their own passions, but now all gone, vanishing one after another, gone as utterly as we ourselves shall be gone like ghosts at cockcrow."

G.M. Trevelyan

[Kind of makes you stop and think about the importance of our job as members of the SCV.]

A Sesquicentennial Moment, June, 1862

June 1st: Robert E. Lee takes charge of the defense of Richmond after Joseph Johnston is wounded.

June 6th: Memphis surrenders.

June 7th: William Mumford is sentenced to death by Beaudin Butler in New Orleans for tearing down the Union flag flying at the New Orleans Mint.

June 15th: Jeb Stuart returns after his cavalry makes a ride around the Army of the Potomac.

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

WBTS Usage

Osnaburg: a heavy course cotton fabric used for the linings of a haversack.

Potshot: random shots at irregular intervals as opposed to a line of soldiers firing a volley.

Razorback: a prisoner of war who served as an informant.

Rebel Conch: slang for a soldier or resident of coastal Florida.

Source: The Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage by Webb Garrison

Confederate Birthdays

Brigadier General James Lawson Kemper was born in Madison County, Virginia on June 11th, 1823. In 1846 he became an attorney and was active in local politics and militia units. He was a Mexican War vet and at the beginning of the WBTS he was a colonel in the 7th Virginia Infantry. He eventually rose to command a brigade in Pickett's Virginia division. Kemper was severely wounded in Pickett's charge and the wound kept him off of any further active duty. However at the end of the war General Kemper was in command of Virginia's reserve troops. After the war he became very active in Virginia politics especially after the death of his wife. Kemper eventually was elected as the 37th governor of Virginia. James Lawson Kemper died on April 7th, 1895, and is buried in Walnut Hills, Orange County, Virginia.

Weapons of the WBTS

The Model 1861 Rifle Musket was one of the most widely used weapons of the WBTS. Over a million were produced, the majority of which went to the Union army. The Confederates got their hands on them after Union losses. During July and August of 1862 [Seven Day's Battle and Second Manassas] Lee's ANV picked up 55,000 of the muskets. [The Sesech skeered em pretty good.]

June 19th was CSS Alabama Commemoration Day. On this day in 1864 our beloved CSS Alabama was sent to the bottom of the English Channel after her heroic duel with the USS Kearsarge. Roll, Alabama, Roll.

A Moment of Reflection from the Editor's Desk

The two most favorite things I get to do as a member of the SCV is to shoot Matilda and compose the Camp's newsletter. I am always amazed that when it comes time to put the newsletter together

things just fall into place. Often times something will happen and articles show up at the right time. That is the case this month with the Dear Ancestor poem and the history perspective quote. I suppose it is much like the way things happened as my father prepared the Sunday music program for the church or when he was studying for a lay sermon.

Earlier this month my wife and I traveled through West Tennessee where we visited the grave of my great-great-great-grandfather. Albert Gallatin Hallum served the first year of the war with the 15th Mississippi Infantry Regiment and the last few months of the war as a lieutenant in Terrell's Dragoons [4th Regiment Cavalry, Mississippi].

It was a humbling moment to stand on the same ground upon which my ancestor had stood and was buried.

I certainly do appreciate the fact that our camp affords me the opportunity to have so much fun being a Confederate. God bless ya'll.

Sincerely,

Terry W. "Beetle" Bailey

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**