

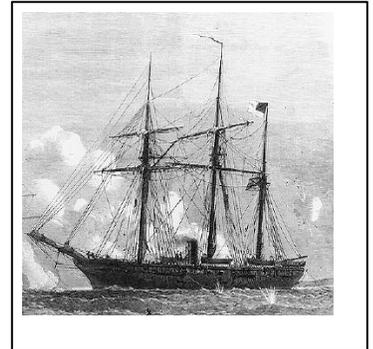
The Admiral's Log

Sons of Confederate Veterans

1211 Government St., Mobile, AL 36604

Raphael Semmes Camp 11

March 2013



Dear Friends and Compatriots of Camp 11,

Greetings and salutations from Camp 11. Isn't amazing how fast spring has sprung upon us! Last issue we had little foliage and this issue we are seeing spring in full glory. Yes sir, I do love springtime on the Gulf Coast in the Heart of Dixie. Can I get an AMEN?!

Our camp has been quite busy since the end of February. On February 22nd several Semmes Camp members participated in the Reenactment for the Defense of Quitman and the Texas Hospitals. Claude and Michelle Turberville, Dustin Marshall, and I had a fine time and represented Camp 11 quite well. First order of business was the posting of our flags and banner. As result of a sale by a sutler at Quitman we now have a 28 flag display. Matilda was her usual outstanding self! We prepped the night fire rounds with some commercial Roman candle powder. The crowd gave us a rousing applause on Saturday night with that improved night fire display. Claude was intrepid as usual. We have come to expect nothing less from Claude. He built a tin clad and assaulted the Union forces from aboard the CSS Michelle. The greatest challenge that Dustin and I faced was trying to keep a fire going. Evidently the fire spirits did not bless our fire pit.

On March 2nd I joined up with members of the 5th Mississippi Brigade for a living history program at Beauvoir. On this particular weekend there were several hundred Boy Scouts on site for a camporee. We had a camp set up; fired Matilda and Miss Elizabeth [Daryl Ladner's mountain howitzer]; Wallace Mason had his artillery display; James Gibson and Troy Savoie did an infantry presentation. We also had several groups of paying tourists stop by for a lesson on the Southern Heritage.

Our camp, in conjunction with several Mississippi camps, is organizing a monthly living history program during the summer months at Beauvoir. Our plans are to set up on the third Saturday of each month from May to September. Our area is blessed with some folks who love doing living histories. We plan to put this blessing to work this summer.

On March 3rd Mr. Jessie Taylor and I ventured off to Greene County, Mississippi, for two Confederate grave dedication ceremonies. We certainly did enjoy that fellowship.

Then on March 16th several camp members participated in the National Heritage Rally at Beauvoir. Compatriots Joe Ringhoffer, Joe DuPree, Charlie Christmas, Jessie Taylor, Stephen Ellison, Dustin

Marshall, David Eubanks, and I were there for the festivities. Once again we had the camp banner and flag display set up. Dustin and I had a living history display for the attendees. Matilda, under the direction of Compatriot Ellison, was fired during the volley salute. And we were proud of Compatriot DuPree's presentation on behalf of our camp. It is now official: the camp's original copy of "The Official Records of the War of Rebellion" is now a part of the collection at the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library. We must thank Compatriot Hudson McDonald for his generous donation of these books. Three cheers for Camp 11.

In closing please continue with your prayers for Camp 11 and its members. Let us also be in prayer for our nation and its military. Let us never be guilty of failing as prayer warriors.

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

Minutes

Admiral Semmes, Camp 11
Sons of Confederate Veterans
25 February 2013

The meeting was called to order by Commander Joe Ringhoffer.

The following guests were introduced: Tommy Rhodes, Commander, Camp 1864. David Myers, Adjutant, Camp 1864. Wallace Mason, speaker for the evening. and Ernest 'Buddy' McCormick, an applicant for membership.

The invocation was given by Chaplain Steve Kennedy.

The pledges to the flags were led by Commander Ringhoffer.

The program was presented by Wallace Mason from Biloxi and serves of the Board of Trustees for Beauvoir. He discussed three men who were instrumental in improvements to artillery shells during the War of Northern Aggression. The first was Josiah Gorgas. After the war with Mexico was over, he was stationed at Mount Vernon. He met and married a young woman from Mobile. At the start of the War, he resigned his commission in the army of the United States. Having built up arsenals during his service to the U.S., he was instrumental in building up the arsenals for the Confederacy. After the war, he served as presidents of the University of the South and the University of Alabama. Another important inventor was Robert Parker Parrott who invented the various Parrott rifles. The third inventor was Dr. John B. Read of Tuscaloosa. Dr. Read made several advancements in the design of artillery shells. Compatriot Wallace had many examples of artillery shells that were used during the war and commented that the advances in technology outstripped the Napoleonic tactics used during warfare.

Boatswain Tom Root read from Memoirs of Service Afloat by Raphael Semmes. He read the selection where the Admiral commented about his thoughts when he heard that Lincoln had been assassinated. He commented that being a Christian man and it being Good Friday, his prayer was that God have mercy on Lincoln's soul, "but the devil will surely take care of his memory."

Adjutant Rodgers commented on an error in last month's minutes as printed in the Admiral's Log.

Paymaster Charlie Christmas reported on the financial condition of the camp. He also discussed the plans of the Alabama Department of Transportation to destroy the welcome station on I-10 in Mobile County and replace it with another station. Upon entry into the station, visitors see a very large mural depicting the voyages of the CSS Alabama. As it is important to our heritage, we do not want to see the mural destroyed if there is any way to remove the tiles. Also he has sent an email to Keep Mobile Beautiful regarding the theft of the sign at grassy area at the foot of Government Street where the stature of Admiral Semmes and the cannon from Ft. Powell are located.

Commander Rhodes from the Blakeley Camp reported on the leadership conference that their camp is hosting in Foley this coming weekend. He had registration forms available for anyone who wants to attend. Also the Alabama Division 2013 reunion will be hosted by the Blakeley Camp on June 7 &

8. MOSB is active in Baldwin County. So any member of the MOSB in Mobile is welcome to attend and affiliate with their camp.

1st Lt. Commander Bailey: Everyone is encouraged to drive over to Beauvoir on March 16. The General Executive Committee will be meeting there. As more is known emails will be distributed. The program in March will be by Chaplain Kennedy; April will be on Ft. Powell; and, May will be show and tell.

Compatriot DuPree reported that the 2nd National will fly at Confederate Rest beginning on May 1. He discussed the continuing work going on at Ft. McDermott. Anyone who can help clear underbrush please call him. He also reported on gifts.

Chaplain Kennedy reported on those in the camp with medical concerns.

New Business:

A question was raised about a confederate hospital near Halls Mill Creek. It could have been a part of the training camp at Halls Mill.

Compatriot Col. McDonald will speak in December at the Museum of Mobile.

Application of Membership from Ernest McCormick was received and approved unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the benediction of Chaplain Kennedy.

Respectfully submitted,
William P. Rodgers, Adjutant

Compatriot Joe Dupree's Address at Beauvoir

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Greetings from Raphael Semmes Camp 11 of Mobile in the great & sovereign State of Alabama. Our thanks to the SCV National Headquarters for putting together such a grand event and to our Mississippi Compatriots at Beauvoir for hosting it.

It is my privilege and pleasure to represent the Semmes Camp in conveying custody from our Camp of an initial issue copy of the 128 volumes of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies dated August 23, 1880, to the Jefferson F. Davis Presidential Library.

These Volumes carry the somewhat erroneous title "War of the Rebellion, Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies".

Rather they should be called "The War for Southern Independence, Official Records of the Union and American Armies". For, in truth, is there a more "American" idea than that we "are and of right ought to be free and independent States" as professed in our Declaration of Independence? In Alabama, as many of you know, we still "Dare Defend Our Rights"!

The entries start with the 1860 South Carolina Ordinance of Secession and continue throughout the Confederacy's life.

We sincerely hope that scholars, researchers, and generally inquisitive folks will find them both informative and entertaining and that they prove a valuable addition to the Library here at Beauvoir.

As Memorials Chairman for the Semmes Camp, in recognition of this custodial transfer, it is my distinct honor to convey Volume I to Messrs. Hays-Davis and Forte of Beauvoir along with our hopes for their use and as a mark of our respect for the great work the Mississippi Division performs in maintaining the home of our President, Jefferson F. Davis.

A. J. DuPree, Delivered 3-17-2013

St. Patrick's Day Commentary from Jim W. Dean, Editor, Veterans Today

Saint Patrick's Day has long been a big Confederate event in honor of all the Irish who fought for the South.

Although Irish fought on both sides, those for the South saw the issue of Yankee commercial dominance, their wanting to establish a permanent underclass by force of arms.

The South was, post-Civil War, treated like an internal colony to the detriment of black and white alike, where those on the bottom of the ladder were pitted against each other.

The high export duties imposed before the war, 46%, were not only continued afterward but never fully removed until WWII, a little nasty item of American history which we don't teach our children in the government schools.

Many of the established Irish who fought for the North bought into the propaganda of saving the Union. But many Irish were brought in as part of the huge European mercenary recruiting program. The high bounties of \$1000 to \$1500 were a fortune at the time. Roughly 350,000 immigrants passed into the Yankee army, similar to the number of Confederate soldiers killed during the whole war.

The main hustle used to get them into the army was to grab them off the immigrant boats and sign them up for an immediate job with cash in hand on the spot. They were then delivered to the recruiters, quickly signed up, got their second \$25, and the rest of the bounty stolen by the scammers with the new American on his way to the front.

The scale of the immigrants being shanghaied for bounties was so large during the last year of the war that these 'inductees' were literally treated as prisoners. They were constantly under guard while being transferred to the front as replacement cannon fodder for the continuing mass assaults against Confederate fortifications. But both Irish sides are honored after all of these years for the struggle and horrors they endured. Those that survived, the best of them, honor the pledge of remembering their less fortunates despite the conflicting reasons why they fought. And the Irish are at the top of the list for their alternating tragedies and successes here.

In the early years they were beneath the black slaves, and frequently used for dangerous work, like ship loading and mine work, where accidents were frequent and a seriously injured Irishman was simply dispatched with his days pay to cover his medical bills.

When Frederick Douglas visited Ireland he wrote in his archives of the shock of seeing the desperate poverty which the Irish lived in at the time, and the irony of while England was technically anti-slavery, the Irish were clearly treated worse than black slaves in America. This is another one of those little historical gems which is censored out of American history.

A Sesquicentennial Moment

March, 1863

3/3: The cavalry of the Army of the Potomac is outfitted with Sharps breech-loading carbines.

3/7 & 11: In Baltimore the federals forbid the publication of Confederate music, confiscate sheet music, and forbid the sale of pictures of Confederate leaders.

3/23: Battle of Kernstown was a tactical defeat but a strategic victory. This battle prevented Union troops from leaving the Shenandoah Valley for use against Richmond.

Source: 1400 Days, The US Civil War Day by Day [Drury, Bishop, and Gibbons]

WBTS Usage

Line officer: A designation for officers that functioned between field and general officers, i. e., captains and lieutenants. Line officers carried out commands but seldom issued their own.

Source: The Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage by Webb Garrison

Confederate Birthdays

Brigadier General Sterling Alexander Martin Wood was born in Florence, Alabama, on March 17th, 1823. At the start of the WBTS, he was a lawyer and newspaper editor. He began his military career as Captain of the Florence Guards, guarding the entrance of Mobile Bay at Ft. Morgan. In May 1861, he was appointed Colonel in command of the 7th Alabama Infantry and promoted Brigadier General in January 1862. He led his men in battles in the western theatre at Shiloh, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, and was wounded at Perryville. After he recovered, he led forces at the Battle of

Murfreesboro and was placed in command of the District of North Alabama with headquarters in Florence where he remained until June 1863, when he resigned his commission. After the war, he resumed legal practice and served as a state legislator. General S. A. M. Wood died in Tuscaloosa on January 26th, 1891. He is buried at Evergreen Cemetery in Tuscaloosa County.

Quotes from the Heroes

“The South has nothing for which to apologize. She believes that the late struggle between the states was war and not rebellion, revolution and not conspiracy, and that her convictions were as honest as yours. I should be unjust to the dauntless spirit of the South and to my own convictions if I did not make this plain in this presence. The South has nothing to take back.” – Henry Grady, speech to the ‘New England Society’ in New York City, December 21, 1886. [Grady was a child when his father was killed at Petersburg, Va.] Source: Facebook Page “Defending the Heritage” by Robert Mestas.

.WBTS Trivia

What’s in a name?

The war that occurred in America from 1861 to 1865 has been given many titles. Some of them are: The War for Separation, The War of the Sections, The Confederate War, Mr. Davis’ War, Mr. Lincoln’s War, The Southern Rebellion, The War for Southern Rights, The War of Northern Aggression, The Late Unpleasantness, The Second American Revolution, and The War of Yankee Arrogance. However, The War Between the States and The Civil War are the two titles that seem to have stuck with us. Neither of these names is correct. Obviously it was not a civil war as the South had no desire to overthrow the government of the United States. So, why not call it what it was: The War of Secession?

Upcoming Events

March 25th: Semmes Camp meeting

April 12th -14th: Natchez Rendezvous at Jefferson College near Natchez, Mississippi

April 21st: Camp 11 Memorial Service at 2pm in Confederate Rest of Mobile’s Magnolia Cemetery

April 22nd: Confederate Memorial Service in Montgomery on the Capitol Grounds

April 26th – April 28th: Reenactment at Selma, Alabama

April 27th: Mississippi Division Confederate Memorial Service at Beauvoir

April 29th: Semmes Camp meeting

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**