

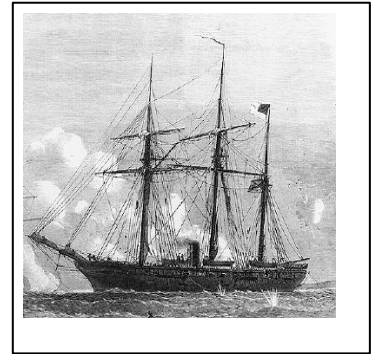
The Admiral's Log

Sons of Confederate Veterans

1211 Government St., Mobile, AL 36604

Raphael Semmes Camp 11

August 2013



Dear Friends and Compatriots of Camp 11,

Greetings and salutations from Camp 11. I certainly hope and pray that this edition of the Log finds all of you doing well.

Folks, I know why the good Lord made four seasons. I am just plain tired of hot weather. I know many of you feel the same way. I am sure that in October I will have to restrain myself if I hear of someone complaining about cold weather.

I don't know about the rest of you but I have had a mighty fine Confederate good time over the past few weeks. It started at Laurel, Mississippi. Our good friends at the Jones County Rosin Heels SCV Camp put on another fine show case of Southern Heritage with their annual Southern Heritage Conference.

Brother Al Benson, Jr. was there and made several good presentations. The best presentation came from Rosin Heels member Ryan Walters. Ryan gave a presentation entitled "Lincoln's War on Maryland". I suspect we will be seeing a lot from Compatriot Walters as he continues to write about our Confederate Heritage.

Our friend, Connie Mori of the Confederate Shoppe, was there with the lady who has bought her business. It is sad to see Miss Connie leave the circuit of conventions and other Heritage events, but she is ready to retire. All of us hope and pray for the best for Miss Connie as she enters this stage of her life.

Many of you are acquainted with Rosin Heels member Carl Ford. Brother Carl has made several presentations for our camp. Carl's wife, Miss Nancy, recently had a battle with cancer. I am thrilled to report that she has arrived on the other side of this battle victorious. Miss Nancy sends her heart felt thank you for all of the prayers that were sent up for her.

Our camp's involvement with The Friends of Fall Muster is reaping great rewards. As a way to promote Beauvoir's Fall Muster in October we have been going to Beauvoir once a month to do a living history presentation for the guests of Beauvoir. Needless to say Matilda, the camp's Coehorn mortar, has had to tag along. She gets quite testy if she does not get her way when it comes to going somewhere to show off the Heritage.

On Saturday, August 17th, we did such a program. Due to the threat of bad weather we scaled back our presentation. One of our compatriots from the Picayune, Mississippi, camp brought his mountain howitzer. As a result we had a fine display of artillery with the howitzer and the mortar. We also had an infantry display and another SCV compatriot gave a presentation about side arms.

On this particular day we had a tour group from England, Australia, and New Zealand. These folks were a hoot. I was amazed at how much they enjoyed holding our muskets and pistols. Of course this was no surprise given the restrictive gun laws in these countries.

The ladies in the gift shop at Beauvoir informed me that they get calls regularly from people wanting to know when the living historians will be on site. This information made me quite proud of the success of our effort in such a short time. With that bit of information we are planning to be at Beauvoir once a month with a living history presentation. We had first considered doing it through Fall Muster [October] but with so much interest in our effort we have decided to try to keep it going.

With all of this being said I cannot say thank you enough to the Semmes Camp. Your support and encouragement for this effort at Beauvoir is a real blessing. You can believe that I consider all of you to be Friends of Fall Muster.

There is an event coming up at the end of the month that I want to encourage ya'll to attend. Not only are we in the Sesquicentennial of the WBTS but we are also in the middle of the bicentennial of the War of 1812. On August 30th through September 1st we will have the bicentennial commemoration of the Massacre at Ft. Mims [near Tensaw, Alabama, off of Ala. 59 near Boatyard Lake]. I will play the role of a settler and Claude Turberville will be a Red Stick Creek Indian. It is needless to say that this will be about the fifth year in a row that I have lost my scalp to Claude. At least it is a friend that scalps me each year.

Our August meeting on the 25th will be a good one. Mrs. Pat Godwin of Selma will visit with us. She will have a presentation about the Jefferson Davis Highway. Please make you plans to attend.

Dear Compatriots, once again as I close this portion of the Log I beg you to be prayer warriors. Please keep our camp in your prayers as we stand on the front line in defense of our glorious Confederate Heritage.

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

Minutes

Admiral Semmes, Camp 11
Sons of Confederate Veterans
29July2013

The meeting was called to order by Commander Joe Ringhoffer.

The invocation was given by Chaplain Steve Kennedy.

The pledges to the flags were led by Commander Ringhoffer.

Compatriot Bryan Clark brought the program. He discussed various medals of the Confederacy. The colors were usually red and white; red signifying blood and white signifying the purity of the South and its cause to separate itself from a tyrannical strong central government.

Commander Ringhoffer:

Offered several Reunion badges ranging from \$5 to \$20 each.

Recognized our guests.

Encouraged attendance at reunions.

Congratulated several men of the camp for awards.

Encouraged growth in membership after the camp fell from 8th to 12th in the SCV with a net loss of 10 men.

A check has been received from the Division in support of work at Ft. McDermott.

Solicited suggestions for a fund raiser. Shared the annual motorcycle rally held in Charleston which is similar to a sports car rally; the rally is a Confederate history search in the Charleston area.

The 2016 reunion will be in Dallas, TX.

A new group within the SCV, the Confederate Bar Association, is being formed for attorneys.

Presented a membership certificate to Buddy McCormick.

1st. Lt. Commander Bailey:

Living history presentations have become very successful at Beauvoir each 3rd Saturday of the month.

Fall Muster plans are well underway.

Ft. Mims events will be during Labor Day weekend.

Memorials Committee Chairman DuPree:

The Mobile Register is failing to print letters and other camp contributions. An article on Father Ryan is the latest to be rejected.

Work will continue at Ft. McDermott this fall once the growing season has passed.

The 2nd National Flag is flying at Confederate Rest in Magnolia Cemetery.

Paymaster Christmas:

Dues are now payable for the 2013-14 year.

Adjutant Rodgers:

Dues notices are mailed from the Division.

New Business:

Compatriot Kirk Barrett has received approval for the placement of five more roadside plaques in Spanish Fort. Each plaque will be placed and will be identified with the units which fought there. Commander Ringhoffer will approach the Division Commanders of MO, LA, TX and MS for contributions to cover the costs of the plaques which will recognize units from their respective states. Kirk and Joe DuPree will work on the wording.

The camp unanimously approved \$150 to assist J.W. Binion from Kentucky in his travel costs to participate in Fall Muster at Beauvoir.

An application for membership from Steven McDavid was approved unanimously.

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

A Sesquicentennial Moment, August 1863

August 6th: The CSS Alabama captures the Federal bark "Sea Bride" off the Cape of Good Hope.

August 8th: Robert E Lee offers his resignation to President Davis in the aftermath of Gettysburg. The President declines his offer.

August 18th: Lincoln test fires the new Spencer repeating carbine.

August 21st: Quantrill's raid on Lawrence, Kansas.

August 25th: BG Thomas Ewing issues his Order #11 in response to Quantrill's Raid. 20,000 people were removed from their homes in the Missouri counties of Bates, Cass, and Jackson.

August 29th: The CSS Hunley sinks in Charleston Harbor killing several crew members.

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

WBTS Usage

oh-be-joyful: a home brewed alcoholic beverage.

old bull: a derisive name for salted horse meat.

black snake: a derisive name for abolitionists.

chevette: a device used to hoist heavy guns onto their carriages.

Source: The Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage by Webb Garrison

Strategy and Tactics of the WBTS

The Industrial Revolution brought so many changes to warfare that the WBTS is often called the first modern war. One of the innovations that made a profound change in cavalry tactics was the breech loading carbine.

In previous wars smooth bore muskets were more vulnerable to a cavalry charge. However the introduction of rifled muskets and breech loading repeating carbines made the cavalry vulnerable. Veteran infantry could stand behind their cover and rely on the range and power of their weapons to fend off a cavalry charge.

One Confederate officer described one such experience in the Shenandoah Valley in 1862: "Just as these hundred men had reached the fence, the cavalry came thundering by, but a deadly volley stopped their wild career. Some in front, unhurt, galloped off, on their way, but just behind them horses and riders were down in a tangled heap. The rear, unable to check themselves, plunged on in, over upon the bleeding pile, a roaring, shrieking, struggling mass of men and horses, crushed, wounded and dying. It was a sickening sight, the worst I had ever seen then, and for a moment I felt a twinge of regret that I had ordered that little line to that bloody work."

No longer in their role of shock troops, by 1862 cavalries in both armies were struggling to find a contribution to the battlefield. As a result cavalry began to specialize in large scale raids and reconnaissance. Raids did wonders for the cavalry reputation but raiding was a hindrance to the more vital but less glamorous role of reconnaissance. The cavalry of both armies fell into this trap. As a result the cavalry had a bad reputation among the infantry. Some common infantry jibes towards the cavalry were; "Whoever saw a dead cavalryman?" One Confederate soldier wrote, "I do wish the Yankees would capture all the cavalry.....they never will fight so I think it is useless to have them in the army eating rations".

During 1863 Confederate cavalry began to decline. On the other hand the Union cavalry was growing in numbers, confidence, and experience. The Union cavalry began to take a more offensive role in the war by adopting the tactics of mounted infantry. Their horses gave them mobility and the new Spencer carbine gave them the fire power needed hold positions against Confederate infantry when fighting on foot.

This was not classic cavalry warfare but it suited the WBTS soldier and the kinds of battles fought in North America. Decades later it helped change cavalry tactics around the world.

Source: "The Civil War Day by Day" by Phillip Katcher

Confederate Birthdays

BG Danville Ledbetter: August 26, 1811. I had to mention General Ledbetter as he is one of our heroes buried in Mobile's Magnolia Cemetery.

LG John Clifford Pemberton: General Pemberton was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on August 10th, 1814. He graduated from West Point in 1833 and was 27th of a class of 50. Pemberton served in the Seminole Wars and the Mexican War. Due to the influence of his Virginia born wife he chose to resign his commission and join the CSA. Pemberton was the commander at the siege and fall of Vicksburg in 1863. General Pemberton died in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, on July 13th, 1881. He is buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia. General Pemberton's nephew, John Pemberton, was also a Confederate soldier who is credited with the invention of Coca-Cola.

Quotes from the Heroes

This quote comes from "Kate, The Journal of a Confederate Nurse" [pg. 4] by Kate Cumming. In this quote she is making reference to the persecution and murder of Henry Wirz.

"We begged time and again for an exchange, but none was granted. We starved their prisoners! But who laid waste to our corn and wheat fields? And did not we all starve? Have the southern men who

were in northern prisons have no tales to tell---of being frozen in their beds, and seeing their comrades freeze to death for want of proper clothing? Is there no Wirz for us to bring to trial?.....People of the north, the southerners have their faults. Cruelty is not one of them. If your prisoners suffered, it was from force of circumstances, and not with design."

The following quote comes from "Cultures In Conflict" by Charles A. Jennings [pg.88].

"In addition to politicians and other reformers, were so-called 'Christian' ministers who were leading this pack of vicious wolves in their sadistic attack upon Southern culture. While the poets were mainly ideological romanticists these ministers were mainly Unitarian in their approach to the Holy Scriptures and spiritual values. Seemingly, it was a large segment of Northern self-proclaimed intellectual elites of all professions who felt that it was their humanitarian duty to proclaim, for example, a doctrine of equality among the races yet vehemently advocated the utter subjugation of Southern whites. These Northern radicals fervently hated everything that the South stood for, which was; Constitutional government as originally given by our colonial forefathers; Southern culture which involved a traditional patriarchal oriented, agrarian, freedom-loving lifestyle of Anglo-Saxon Celtic origin; and the Biblical Christianity as expressed through the Protestant Reformation".

The yeoman farmers of North Carolina were not anxious to leave the Union. They did not rush to support South Carolina when it withdrew from the Union in December 1860. It took five months before North Carolina made a difficult choice to leave the Union that was made easier by the actions of the U.S. government. U.S. Rep. Zebulon Vance (the first colonel of the 26NCT) said he was giving a speech about the importance of staying in the Union and had his hands raised in a gesture of peace toward the Union when he heard Lincoln's demands that North Carolina provide troops to invade its Southern neighbors. "When my hand came down from that impassioned gesticulation, it fell slowly and sadly by the side of a Secessionist," said Vance.

Clint Johnson in an article in the Winston Salem Journal [6-23-13]

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**