

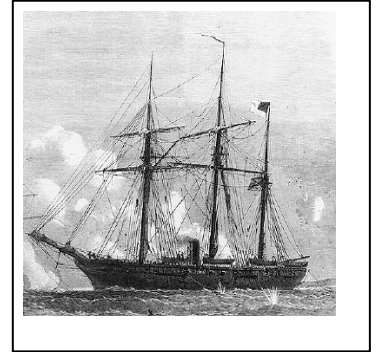
The Admiral's Log

Sons of Confederate Veterans

1211 Government St., Mobile, AL 36604

Raphael Semmes Camp 11

October 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. Like the rest of you I am enjoying the fall weather. On Saturday, October 26th, I went to Burnt Corn, Alabama, for a memorial service. The fall colors and the cotton fields were gorgeous.

I must apologize for the tardiness of the newsletter. October was a busy month and it just slipped away. That is my excuse and I am sticking to it.

Speaking of excuses, I am reminded of a story about a traveling evangelist. This evangelist stopped at a fellow's house and spoke to the man about attending a church service. This particular fellow was at his wood pile splitting logs for his home fire place. The man said he would like to attend but that the wood needed to be split. The evangelist responded by saying that "any excuse will do". Folks, when it comes to a choice of supporting the SCV in our defense of the heritage any excuse will do.

I am saddened to report that Commander Ringhoffer's mother recently crossed over and now resides in the land of the unseen. We can rest assured that this beloved woman is now at rest with the saints who have gone on before. On behalf of our camp I extend our sympathy to Commander Ringhoffer and his family.

As mentioned October was a busy month. I participated in the Heritage Cemetery Walk at Beauvoir on October 8th. Samuel Hankins was the soldier I portrayed. The walk was an absolute success for Beauvoir. We had 576 guests to attend the function. I might also add that this 576 people went through the cemetery in two hours' time. Needless to say we were busy with our presentations.

Then from October 17th through the 21st I took up residence at Beauvoir for Fall Muster. I will spare ya'll of all of the details. Suffice it to say that our visitors and reenactors gave us high marks for the event. It was an honor for me to represent Camp 11 and the Alabama Division at such a wonderful Confederate fellowship.

Also as previously mentioned Dustin Marshall, Matilda, and I traveled to Burnt Corn, Alabama, on the 26th for a Confederate Memorial Service at the Green Family Cemetery. Hey, I got to tell ya'll that

we were out in the 'sho nuff' boondocks of Conecuh County. That is really one of the best parts of attending memorials throughout SW Alabama. We see the beautiful Alabama countryside and meet some mighty fine folks. If you get a chance check out the history of Burnt Corn, it is fascinating.

This ceremony was organized by my good friend and compatriot Don Green. It was his family cemetery and Don is commander of the 5th Mississippi Brigade, SCV. The ceremony was well attended by folks from as far away as Virginia and Oregon. This family had recovered the cemetery from an overgrown state and restored it to the beauty that our ancestors deserve. The cemetery has a historical marker as one of the Greens buried there was an 1812 veteran and a member of the Alabama Legislature. Our memorial was a part of a day of rededication for the cemetery. Once again I have to say that it was an honor for our camp to be a part of this historical occasion.

And last but not least our buddy, Claude Turberville, put in an appearance at Atmore on the 26th for Williams Station Days. We know that where ever Claude goes he spreads the gospel for the SCV. We appreciate everyone who gets out and represents Camp 11 at so many different functions in our part of the world.

Did you know that the original, very first Confederate Battle Flag has a connection to Mobile? Well it does and if you want the rest of the story I urge you to attend our next meeting on October 28th at the Admiral Semmes Hotel in downtown Mobile. The meeting starts at 7 pm.

Well that about does it for now. Please continue to be vigilant in your prayer life.

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

Minutes

Admiral Semmes, Camp 11
Sons of Confederate Veterans
30September2013

The meeting was called to order by Commander Joe Ringhoffer.

The invocation was given by Assistant Chaplain Sidney Phillips, III.

The pledges to the flags were led by Commander Ringhoffer who afterward recognized our guests and members of the Semmes family.

Oliver Semmes then shared reported on a 13-star 1st National Flag that he acquired and had restored by a restoration service in Richmond, VA. He later loaned the flag to be displayed in the Wentworth Museum and has donated the flag to the Museum of Mobile.

Commander Ringhoffer read an excerpt from a book written by a soldier. The selection was about his service at Ft. McDermott and his appreciation of Mobile when he had leave.

Boatswain Tom Root read a selection from the Admiral's memoirs. The selection related information about the final voyage of the Alabama and its last port-of-call in Cherbourg, France.

Paymaster Charlie Christmas reported that 89 men have paid their 2013-2014 dues.

1st Lt. Commander Beetle Bailey reported on activities at Beauvoir. There are over 700 men buried in the cemetery. Beauvoir served longer as an old-soldier home than it did as a home for President Davis. October 19-20 will be fall muster at Beauvoir.

Commander Ringhoffer reported on a request to assist with funding ads in media outlets supporting the honor of the good name of Nathan Bedford Forrest which has come under yankee fire. Our plate is full with needs at Ft. McDermott.

Memorials Chairman Joe DuPree reported the 2nd National is flying at Confederate Rest. He also reported that work on the foot-bridge will begin in the next few days. Compatriot Hank Cobb mentioned the National Eagle Scout Magazine may be interested in an article concerning the project. Compatriot Rather's son is building the bridge as an Eagle Scout project. Mr. DuPree received kudos for his recent presentation on Father Ryan, the "Poet Priest" of the Confederacy.

Webmaster Joe LiCicero reported he welcomes any photos, reports, or documents for inclusion on the site.

There was no old business.

Under new business, Compatriot Joe DuPree moved that the camp make a donation of \$250 to the footbridge project at Ft. McDermott. The motion was seconded by Compatriot Bailey and unanimously approved by the Camp.

The applications from Hugh Michael Riley, John Hicks, Bryant Hicks and Owen Hicks were all approved unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer from Assistant Chaplain Phillips.

The cutting of the Admiral's birthday cake and fellowship followed.

A Sesquicentennial Moment, October 1863

October 11th: General Longstreet and President Davis take a walk together. During the walk Longstreet asks Davis to replace Bragg with Johnston. Davis is not receptive to the suggestion. Bragg and Davis had forged a friendship at the Battle of Buena Vista in 1847. This friendship was costing the Confederacy dearly.

October 15th: H. L. Hunley takes personal command of his invention. On this day during a sea trial the submarine sinks killing Mr. Hunley and the crew in Charleston Harbor.

October 28th: Yankee General Hooker reaches Brown's Ferry near Chattanooga and breaks the Siege of Chattanooga.

WBTS Usage

El Capitan Colorado: The nickname for Confederate General John B. Magruder.

eligible point: A spot or position considered to be suitable for an artillery battery.

possum beer: A variety of home brew made from persimmons.[editor's note: YUCK!]

to snipe: To divert the attention of a person while eating so that some of his food could be snatched.

Source: The Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage by Webb Garrison

Confederate Birthdays

Brigadier General Dandridge McRae was born in Baldwin County, Alabama on October 29th, 1829.

His father, D. R. W. McRae, was a plantation owner and a member of the Alabama Legislature.

Young McRae was educated on the plantation by tutors. In 1845 he entered South Carolina College from which he graduated with a B. A. degree. The elder McRae died in 1849 and the family moved to a farm in Searcy, Arkansas. In Searcy Dandridge took up the study of law. At the outbreak of the war McRae was the state inspector general. He immediately set about organizing military companies. During the war he fought at Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove, and Helena. After the war he served in several positions in the state and federal government. Dandridge McRae suffered a stroke in 1897 and his strength declined until his death on April 23rd, 1899. This hero is buried in the Oak Grove Cemetery at Searcy, Arkansas.

Quotes from the Heroes

"Many have inquired of me as to how one felt on entering battle. Speaking for myself, at first it produced a feeling such as I could never explain, although my second entrance was one of dread. I have heard a few say that after one becomes accustomed to battle he will not dread it. There is no truth in this, and I believe experienced soldiers dread it more and more after each experience. It is true, however, that after one gets squarely into an engagement, although comrades are falling thick and fast around him, the dread and fear are diminished and he forgets the danger."

Samuel W. Hankins, "Simple Story of a Soldier, page 13 & 14. Hankins served Co. E, 2nd Mississippi Infantry Regiment

“Before the war, it was said, ‘The United States are...’ Grammatically, it was spoken that way and thought of as a collection of independent states. After the war, it was always ‘The United States *is...*’-- as we say today without being self-conscious at all. And that sums up what the war accomplished. It made us an ‘is.’”

Shelby Foote Taken from The Civil War, An Illustrated history, Geoffrey C. Ward, published by Alrded A Knopp, Inc., Copyright 1990, page 264.

AN OLD CONFEDERATE'S STORY OF IRISH WIT AND GENERAL MAGRUDER

Tommy Logan was a typical son of the Emerald Isle who entered the Confederate army at the first call for troops from Mississippi. Never was Tommy wanting in a reply to any question asked. He needed no time to frame his answer.

The only besetting sin of this true man and soldier was his love for the jug. When General Lee's army was encamped around Fredericksburg Va. with the Federal army waiting to attack as soon as they could cross the river, General Magruder, a splendid officer and brave commander, issued an order that no intoxicants should be sold or given away to any Confederate soldier. General Magruder was himself a hard drinker and this and this alone kept him down to the rank of major general.

A few days after this order, Tommy was detailed as a guard at General Magruder's headquarters and was on duty near the General's tent when a conversation arose between the officers as to why the pay of the Confederate army was fixed at odd numbers a private receiving \$11 per month a sergeant \$17 a lieutenant \$91 a captain \$121 and a general \$301. They could arrive at no conclusion to the controversy.

One of the aids to the General who knew Tommy said, “General Magruder, old Tommy Logan the guard out there may answer your question. He has a ready answer to any question - ask him.”

So another soldier was sent to take Tommy's place and Tommy was ordered to headquarters more as a joke than for information. When Tommy came up it was plainly seen that he had been drinking and he thought that was why he was ordered to headquarters. General Magruder said. “Sir, I see you have been drinking. Will you tell where you got the whisky?”

“Oh, General, I'm afraid you will put me in the guardhouse and I think the damn Yankees are thinking of taking Fredericksburg and I would hate to tell some of my good friends in town I did not fire a shot in their defense.”

“No,” said the General. “I will not punish you, if you will tell where you got your whisky.”

“Ah... General, that sounds so kind of you to say that that it matters not where I got the whisky, so I will tell you the God's truth where I got the liquor.”

“Yes, if you will tell me truthfully where you got the whisky, I shall see that no punishment is given you. Now, tell me where did you get the whisky?”

“Well, General, I took a stroll around the hills beyant the clump of bushes and I saw some horses hitched with no attendant looking after them. When I was with a racer in Kentucky some years ago, I learned to love horses and one of these animals was a beautiful bay. Ah, he was of royal blood I bet. I went up to him and rubbed his head and neck. He seemed to know I was his admiring friend. On going around him, I discovered a canteen hung to the saddle and the devil take my curiosity. I smelt of the canteen and found about three drinks of good whisky. My curiosity to taste was up and I took a small drink. Ah bad luck to whisky. It made me want more and I drank the entire contents of that canteen not more than three fingers though you see.

Here the General put in, “Well, you are telling a long winded story and the one who owned the whisky or horse you have not divulged and you seem to want to hide. Out with the truth! Whose horse was the canteen on?”

“Ah, my kind General, I do not know the owner, but I have for the last six months seen you ridin' that noble animal.”

When this came out the entire office force began to laugh and one said, “General, Tommy is too much

for you.”

But said the General, “He has not only got off for being drunk, but has gotten drunk on my whisky!” As Tommy started to leave the General who enjoyed the joke on himself said, “Tommy I sent for you not knowing you had been drinking, but someone said you could explain why soldiers pay was put at such odd numbers. Now you get \$11 per month and I get \$301 per month. How do you explain that?” “Ah, General, that is aisy. I get \$10 a month for the work I do as a private and \$1 for the honor of being a soldier. And you get \$300 for the honor of being a general and \$1 for the work you do.”

I now must tell you that General Magruder never passed our company at any time on the march or in camp and saw Tommy, that he did not raise his hat and salute the private who explained so fully the odd numbers that Congress fixed as the pay for its officers and soldiers of the line.

Source: Confederate Veteran, Volume 24, 1916, No. 2.

Link to ebook: <http://books.google.com/books/reader?id=ZEEOAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&output=reader&pg=GBS.PP1>

You just have to love our Irish Confederate ancestors!

Upcoming Events

November 2: Living history in Leakesville hosted by the Gaines Warriors SCV Camp.

November 8-10: Reenactment at Tallassee, Alabama, hosted by the Tallassee Armory Guards SCV Camp

November 8-10: Wirt Adams Natchez Raid Reenactment at Historic Jefferson College near Natchez, Mississippi.

November 16: Memorial Service in Georgiana hosted by the Col. Pinckney Bowles SCV Camp of Evergreen.

November 22-24: Reenactment at Camp Moore in Tangipahoa, Louisiana. If you have never visited Camp Moore it is well worth the trip. Their museum is small but excellent.

November 30: Landrum’s Homestead Living History and Skirmish. This event is hosted by the Rosin Heels Camp of Laurel, Mississippi. Landrum’s Homestead is also worth a visit. This event always marks the opening of the Christmas Season at Landrum’s. Landrum’s is on Miss. Highway 15 south of Laurel.

Indeed it appears that November is going to be a busy month. Somewhere in there the Admiral’s Log will have to be done!

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