

# The Admiral's Log

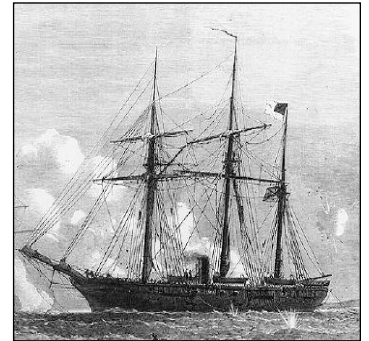
**Sons of Confederate Veterans**

1211 Government St., Mobile, AL 36604

**Raphael Semmes Camp 11**



**December 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.

The Christmas and New Year's Holiday is upon us. It is our sincere wish that all of you will be richly blessed during the holiday season.

Speaking of Christmas, our annual Christmas party at the Dew Drop Inn was a success and the fellowship was wonderful. We had approximately forty members and guests in attendance. At the beginning of the party we had a short business meeting. During this meeting we voted in a new member, Donovan Holifield. We certainly appreciate the hospitality of Powell Hamlin and his staff.

As many of you know our meeting site has become a bit of a problem. However, Compatriot Powell Hamlin has stepped up and offered the Dew Drop as a meeting place. So until further notice we will be meeting at the Dew Drop on Old Shell Road. Please plan to be at our next meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

We will also be looking for you at the Camp 11 Lee/Jackson Salute on January 19<sup>th</sup>. This event takes place at Confederate Rest in Magnolia Cemetery at 2pm.

On January 14<sup>th</sup> our camp had a work day at Ft. McDermott. I understand that it was indeed a successful day. Much of the underbrush was removed which will help make the site more accessible as well as being able to see and appreciate the work that went into building this fortification. Our camp wants to offer a hearty thank you to the following compatriots for their efforts at the work day: Commander Ringhoffer, Joe Dupree, Tom Root, Manly Cummings, Kent Smith, Claude Turberville, and Donovan Holifield and his son. Thanks guys!

Sadly since our last newsletter we have had a loss in our camp family. Compatriot Ken Stanton's wife, Nancy, passed away on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. We pray that the Holy Spirit will bring comfort to Ken and his family during this season of loss.

Once again I ask that all of you continue to be diligent in your prayer life. Our members and the camp need your prayers.

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

## A Sesquicentennial Moment, December 1863

December 1: General Braxton Bragg resigns from the Army of Tennessee.

December 16: General Joe Johnston replaces Bragg.

December 20: The CSS Alabama arrives in Singapore. Yankee shipping in the Far East is paralyzed.

December 29: The lack of fresh fruit and vegetables makes scurvy a problem in both armies in the Western Theater.

[Source: "1400 Days The US Civil War Day By Day"]

## WBTS Usage

Ice-calks: a device attached to the feet of horses or mules to enable them to move across ice.

Jackknife: a knife with two or more blades that folded into a case. This was such a necessity that often captors allowed prisoners to keep theirs.

Open the ball: to initiate a battle

Somebody's darlin': a reference to an unidentified corpse.

[Source: The Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage by Webb Garrison]

## Some Confederate Humor

A soldier had lost his bayonet and whittled one from wood so he could stand inspection. He was hoping not to be discovered until the regiment had gone into battle where he could pick up one from a dead soldier. At an inspection, an officer asked to see his bayonet. The soldier stated "Sir, I promised my father I would never unsheathe my bayonet unless I intended to kill with it." The Officer insisted he hand over the bayonet. Taking it out, the Soldier looked skyward and declared "May the Lord change this bayonet to wood for breaking my vow."

The Confederate Army won many of the battles in the beginning and the middle of the war. One reason was that the Union was the invaders and was attacking fortified positions. The Confederates were entrenched and defending their homeland. They described it best with the expression, "A rooster fights best on his own hill."

A young soldier left home to join the army. He told his girlfriend that he would write every day. After about six months, he received a letter from his girlfriend that she was marrying someone else. He wrote home to his family to find out who she married. The family wrote back and told him. It was the.... mailman.

## An Incident at the Battle of Murfreesboro

"At the battles of Stone River, Tennessee, while the men were lying behind a crest waiting, a brace of frantic wild turkeys, so paralyzed with fright that they were incapable of flying, ran between the lines and endeavored to hide among the men. But the frenzy among the turkeys was not so touching as the exquisite fright of the birds and rabbits. When the roar of battle rushed through the cedar thickets, flocks of little birds fluttered and circled above the field in a state of utter bewilderment, and scores of rabbits fled for protection to the men lying down in the line on the left, nestling under their coats and creeping under their legs in a state of utter distraction. They hopped over the fields like toads, and as perfectly tamed by fright as household pets. Many officers witnessed it, remarking it as one of the most curious spectacles ever seen upon a battlefield."

[Source: Stories, Anecdotes, and Humor from the Civil War Daisy Publications Altoona, Pa.]

## A Long Overdue Impartial Examination

John Reagan was Postmaster General of the Confederacy. In his memoirs he supports the idea that Southerners understood the necessity to abolish slavery and if given time would have taken care of it

on their own. The following are his thoughts: "It is proper to say that before the slavery agitation became sectional and political numbers of slaveholders and others in the Southern States questioned the policy of slavery a few set their slaves free, others favored the colonization of the negroes in Africa and many felt that it was a bad inheritance from which they did not see how they were to be relieved. The system of slave labor was gradually giving way in the border slave States such as Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri and if the people of the Southern States had not been subjected to the fanatical crusade which precipitated war slavery would probably have slowly and finally disappeared in all of them... "After the South had been forced into a war by the unconstitutional and unlawful course of the North, the people of the North assumed and now insist on so falsifying history as to make it appear that the war was the result of Southern policy. Surely in the face of the recorded history of the past, this attempted great fraud cannot stand the test of time and of impartial examination." Source: Memoirs – With Special Reference to Secession and the Civil War, by John Reagan, 1906. Link to free e-book: <https://play.google.com/store/books/details?>  
[Source: Facebook page Defending the Heritage]

### Confederate Birthdays

BG Joseph Orville "Jo" Shelby was born in Lexington, Kentucky, on December 12, 1830 and served in the Trans-Mississippi Theater. He was educated at Transylvania University and was a rope manufacturer. In 1852 he moved to Missouri. Here he engaged in steam boating on the Missouri River as well as operating a hemp plantation. In 1861 Shelby organized a cavalry company and led them at the Battle of Wilson's Creek. From September 22<sup>nd</sup> to November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1863 he led the Missouri Iron Brigade on the longest cavalry raid of the war up to that time. General Shelby played a major role in the failure of Union General Steele's Camden Expedition which sent the Yankees back to Little Rock. In June of 1865, rather than surrender, Shelby and 1000 troopers went to Mexico. Reportedly he sank his battle flag in the Rio Grande River rather than let it fall into the hands of the enemy. One verse of "The Unreconstructed Rebel" is a tribute to Shelby:

"I won't be reconstructed, I'm better now than then  
And for a Carpetbagger I do not give a damn  
So its forward to the frontier, soon as I can go  
I'll fix me up a weapon and start for Mexico."

The John Wayne-Rock Hudson movie, "The Undefeated", is based on Jo Shelby and his men. In 1867 Shelby returned to Missouri and resumed farming. In 1893 he became a U. S. Marshall in Western Kentucky and served in this capacity until his death on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 1897. General Jo Shelby is buried at Forrest Hill Cemetery in Kansas City, Missouri.

### A Note from the Editor's Desk

I do not have a problem using Christian and Confederate in the same sentence. I believe that the aspect of Christianity is an important part of our Confederate Heritage. Obviously every Confederate soldier was not a Christian. However we can thank our Confederate ancestors for the fact that the South was long known as the "Bible Belt".

Recently I passed by the Unitarian Church and saw their church sign. Like all churches there is usually some kind of message posted on the sign. On this particular day the sign read "The solstice is the reason for the season".

I have a real problem with this church for several reasons. First of all the Unitarian's do not recognize the Divinity of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

From a historical point it was the Unitarian Church that harbored many of the radical Abolitionists. These were also the same people who supported the American terrorist, John Brown. Upon Brown's death some of the Unitarians called him the "New Messiah". The Unitarians poured a lot of the gas on the conflagration that engulfed our homeland from 1861 to 1876.

Folks, we all know the reason for the season and it is completely about the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Quotes from the Heroes

"I might say to myself, I am only one, I will not be missed, but ought we to allow such selfish considerations to govern us, our whole army is made up of individuals and suppose each was to say the same"?

William Henry Tatum - 2/10/1862

Samuel Hankins served in Co. E, 2nd Mississippi Infantry Regiment. While an inmate of the Jefferson Davis Soldiers Home [1905] in Biloxi he penned his memoirs, "Simple Story of a Soldier".

The following quote comes from his memoir. Pay special attention to the last paragraph.

"The first month of the spring of '65 found us pitifully subsisting upon anything obtainable. We were near Selma, Ala., when the news came of General Lee's surrender. It was no surprise to us".

"Thus ended the severest war ever fought in this country or any other. Father against son, brother against brother! My father had an only brother who was a surgeon of an Illinois regiment in the Union army; while my father, Maj. E. L. Hankins, served throughout the war in the Confederate army, commanding Ashcraft's Regiment, composed of the 2nd and 3rd Battalion of Mississippi Cavalry. There were hundreds of similar cases".

"The time is growing near when there will be none of us left to tell the "story of the glory of the men who wore the gray", so I have made the foregoing contribution of my experiences in this "Simple Story of a Soldier".

Dear friends and compatriots, indeed our Confederate heroes are long gone from this world. However their spirit walks among us and their blood flows through our veins. It is up to all of us to see to it that their heritage never dies. When we honor the Charge of Stephen D. Lee we honor Samuel Hankins and thousands just like him

### **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**