

February 2014

The Admiral's Log

Sons of Confederate Veterans

1211 Government St., Mobile, AL 36604

Raphael Semmes Camp 11



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.

On behalf of the family of Ken Stanton I wish to say thank you to all of you who attended his visitation and memorial service. I know that our thoughts and prayers for the family were appreciated.

Our camp must also offer our sincere condolences to Compatriot Stephen Ellison. Stephen's brother recently passed away. Many miles separated Stephen and his brother but their brotherly bond was close. May the Holy Spirit bring comfort to his family in this season of mourning.

2nd Lt. Commander David Smithweck is happy to announce that his book will be available on amazon.com on February 17th. Compatriot Smithweck has written a book entitled "Historic Cannons of Mobile, Alabama". We appreciate David's contribution to the heritage and history of Mobile. Certainly this is another proud moment for our camp. Well done, David.

Okay folks, pay attention. Our meeting last month at the Dew Drop was an absolute success. Powell Hamlin and his staff were the most gracious hosts that one could ask for and all who attended the meeting were very comfortable with the arrangement. Now with that being said we are going to make it even better. Powell has offered to open the doors at 6pm. From 6pm until 7pm we will have a greet and eat. Powell will have burgers, chicken, and some of the fixins' to go with it. Oh yeah, we cannot forget those world famous Dew Drop Inn hot dogs. At 7pm sharp we will start our meeting. I must say that I like this arrangement because it always bothered me at our old meeting place to have the servers interrupting the meeting. Also, for the record the meal is not free. We cannot say thank you enough to Powell for stepping up to help our camp in such a manner.

John Jackson will be our camp speaker on February 24th. John previously worked for the Baldwin County Historical Commission and now works at the Foley Public Library. John is obviously very knowledgeable of Baldwin County history. His program will be about the Bon Secour salt works. I had the privilege of hearing this program last May and really did enjoy it. I know that all of you will feel the same way.

As all of you know we are constantly seeking folks to present programs at our camp meetings. I am happy to announce that Compatriot Robert Sands has offered to be our speaker at the March meeting. Robert's program will be about "The Alabama Arbitration". Now we have something else to

look forward to. Thank you Compatriot Sands. This means that we only have six more slots to fill for 2014. Come on people, do your part in this aspect of camp life.

As you will see in the minutes Arston Grant once again brought some of his weapons collection to our meeting. We all offer a big ole thank you to Arston for this contribution to our meeting. It was certainly an honor to hold the pistol which belonged to Colonel James B. Walton. Walton commanded the Washington Artillery. I tell you, you just can't beat a Semmes Camp meeting!
REBEL YELL!

Another aspect of our meetings that I know all of you enjoy is Compatriot Tom Root's readings from "Service Afloat". At our last meeting he read a very interesting passage on Captain Semmes' take on privateers. Thank you, Tom.

At 2pm on April 13th, 2014, your presence is requested at Confederate Rest in Mobile's Magnolia Cemetery for our camp's annual Confederate Memorial Service. Compatriot DuPree has reported that the service this year will honor Admiral Franklin Buchanan, Old Buck. As all of you are aware 2014 marks the sesquicentennial of the Battle of Mobile Bay. It is truly appropriate that we honor the hero of this battle.

More information will be forthcoming on the service but I to want remind ya'll of the work that Compatriot Steve Kennedy does to prepare for the service. On the Friday or Saturday before the service Steve gets a crew together to put out flag holders on the graves of our heroes. Between now and then he will give us a time to meet at Magnolia Cemetery for this mission. Steve always speaks highly of the fellowship they share while making this contribution to our annual service.

This next reminder is a bit far out in the future but Commander Ringhoffer wants to get ahead of the curve on the event. On April 11th, 2015, we will have our division event at Ft. McDermott. Folks, I hope all of you appreciate the fact that our camp owns this piece of history. We truly own a legacy to pass on to future generations. It is also an honor to host the 2015 Division Heritage Event.

My friends, please continue to be vigilant in you prayer life. A bent knee, a bowed head, and a prayer from the heart can move a mountain.

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

Minutes

Admiral Semmes, Camp 11
Sons of Confederate Veterans
27 January 2014

The meeting was called to order by Commander Joe Ringhoffer.

The invocation was given by 2nd Lt. Commander David Smithweck.

The pledge and salutes to the flags were led by Commander Ringhoffer who then thanked Compatriot Powell Hamlin for the gracious use of the Dew Drop Inn for our monthly meetings.

Compatriot Arston Grant presented the program. He discussed several pistols and revolvers from his collection, passing the weapons so that everyone could examine them more closely.

Compatriot Joe DuPree then presented a slide show of several pictures taken at Fort McDermott.

Also included was the layout of the fort as well as the bridge that has been finished. Much work, including signage, needs to be completed by April of 2015 when the Alabama Division meeting will be held on the coast and an outing to Fort McDermott will be included.

Commander Ringhoffer then called for reports.

The 2nd National is flying at Confederate Rest.

Compatriot Ken Stanton was remembered. He died on January 24.

Commander Ringhoffer then asked for a show of hands of those who had received Camp's

Compatriot of the Year Award which was presented to Compatriot Joe LoCicero and to Compatriot

Kirk Barrett at the Lee-Jackson Salute on January 19. Compatriots DuPree, Rather, Ellison, Bailey and Ringhoffer have received the award in the past.

Commander Ringhoffer thanked all those who participated and attended the Lee-Jackson Salute. He also reiterated thanks to Powell Hamlin for the use of the Dew Drop Inn for our meetings.

1st. Lt. Commander Beetle Bailey needs help for eight of the programs left for the year. Please contact him if you would like to present a program. Also he mentioned Elmira, the death camp of the North.

Boatswain Root read a selection from Service Afloat in which Admiral Semmes reflected on a letter he had sent a federal legislator prior to the war. His conclusion was that the CSA lost the war because of lack of seapower, men and materials.

The meeting was adjourned and 2nd Lt. Commander Smithweck delivered the benediction.

Something Went Wrong

“The Copperhead Chronicle” is a bi-monthly newsletter published by Al Benson, Jr. of Sterlington, Louisiana. In his most recent edition he offers a book review for a new book about the infamous Yankee prison, Elmira [“Hellmira”]. The title of the book is “Elmira-Death Camp of the North” written by Michael Horigan. The following information is condensed from Mr. Benson’s article.

On the flyleaf of the book it states: “Elmira’s death rate was the highest of any prison in the North—almost 25%.....Clearly something went wrong at Elmira.” “That’s a nice way of describing Yankee/ Marxist genocide—“something went wrong”.

Approximately 25% of the 12,123 Confederates who entered the 40-acre prison died there. There is no excuse for the deliberate starvation and the deplorable living conditions of our soldiers other than the vindictiveness of the U.S. commissary general of prisons, Col. William Hoffman. Of course he was following the directives of the U.S. government. [The preamble to House Resolution 97 clearly stated that the wanton mistreatment of CSA prisoners was legal.]

The Confederate prison, Andersonville, is always in the mix as the worst example of WBTS prison camps. NEWS FLASH: The treatment and living conditions of Union prisoners was not deliberate. Furthermore the South lacked the resources to administer POW camps much less an army or to relieve the depredations that were inflicted on the Southern populace. “Something went wrong.”

“This is the kind of thing that, after World War 2, they condemned Nazi war criminals for, yet you can’t do that in Hoffman’s case—Hoffman’s side won the war, so all is automatically forgiven—except at Andersonville, and...the slavery issue.” Nowadays the pc crowd operates on the theory of “selective forgiveness.” This allows “anti-South propaganda to be “forwarded to the next generation, and the next, and so on.”

In Horigan’s book he points out that Hoffman returned \$1.8 million to the federal government after the war. This was from money that was not spent on rations. “Something went wrong.”

Horigan states that the prison could house 5000 prisoners. Somehow Hoffman determined that the prison had the capacity to hold 8000 to 10000 Confederates. The author continues: “Colonel Hoffman’s arbitrary prisoner-of-war figure is a sticking point that would lead to charges more than a century later that Elmira was deliberately established as a death camp.”

The winters at Elmira, New York, are brutal, especially for Southerners. When clothing arrived from home for the prisoners, Hoffman would allow only gray clothing to be passed out.

Conditions at Elmira got so bad that the Yankee/Marxist government was considering a court martial for some folks. To avoid a court martial the chief surgeon of Elmira resigned. He was “overheard boasting that he had killed more Rebel soldiers than any other Union soldier.” “Something went wrong.”

Lt. James Madison Page, 6th Michigan Cavalry, was a prisoner at Andersonville. After the war he wrote “The True Story of Andersonville Prison”. Page had this to say about his book: “I love my country; my whole country, and was no more loyal to the perpetuity of the Union in 1861 than I am today, but I have come to the conclusion that after forty years we can at least afford to tell the truth.”

Well, Lt. Page, here we are 150 years later and the truth is still not being told.” “Something went wrong.”

A Sesquicentennial Moment, February, 1864

Sherman's Meridian Campaign begins on February 3rd as he departs Vicksburg with 20,000 troops. His objective is to destroy the Mobile and Ohio Railroad from Okolona southward and to capture or burn as much Confederate property as possible. His plan is to link up with Gen. Sooy Smith at Meridian. Smith is bringing cavalry from Tennessee. The Confederate troops facing Sherman are commanded by Gen. Leonidas Polk. He has 20,000 troops but they are widely dispersed. As Sherman makes his advance they are marching across the battlefields of 1863 and on the 5th Sherman arrives in Jackson. By the 7th and unknown to Sherman, Sooy Smith's forces have not left Tennessee and it was not until the 11th that Smith's troops began to move. On the 12th Sherman's troops skirmish at Chunky Station, Decatur, and Macon. On February 14th, 1864, Sherman enters Meridian and sets about with the destruction of the town. On February 17th a detachment of Sherman's troops arrive in Quitman. Here they burn several buildings including the Texas Hospitals. By the 18th Sooy Smith has reached the Mississippi prairie country near Okolona. On the 20th Sherman begins his withdrawal back to Vicksburg, despairing of never linking up with Smith. On the 21st Smith runs into Forrest's Cavalry at West Point and Smith orders an immediate retreat. On the next day Forrest with 2500 troops sends Smith and his 7000 cavalrymen scurrying back to Tennessee. [Editor's Note: On February 22nd and 23rd there will be a reenactment at Archusa Water Park which will commemorate the sesquicentennial of the destruction of Quitman. The park is located in Quitman, Mississippi.]

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

WBTS Usage

Slant fire: fire directed at an angle, usually thirty degrees, towards the enemy.

Junk: beef that had been preserved by heavy salting. It was said to be about as edible as old rope.

Josh: a Southern soldier from Arkansas.

Orderly: an aide, typically a private, assigned to perform various tasks for an officer.

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

Confederate Birthdays

Brigadier General Jean Jacques Alfred Alexander Mouton was born in Opelousas, Louisiana, on February 10th, 1829. He was the son of the former Louisiana Governor Alexander Mouton. Mouton attended West Point and graduated 38th in a class of 44. Mouton spoke French and the language barrier caused him difficulties. After West Point he resigned his commission and became a civil engineer for a Louisiana railroad. From 1850 to 1861 he served as a brigadier general of the Louisiana militia. When the WBTS broke out he organized the 18th Louisiana Infantry Regiment. After Shiloh he was sent back to Louisiana where he served for the remainder of the war. Gen. Richard Taylor made him a brigade commander and the two of them attempted to frustrate the effort by the Yankees to subdue Louisiana. General Mouton who was beloved by his men was a strict drillmaster and disciplinarian. Sadly he was killed on April 8th, 1864, at the Battle of Mansfield as he led his men in a cavalry charge.

About General Mouton's death John D. Winters remarked: "On his horse, Mouton made a perfect target, and a federal marksman dropped him from his saddle. The gallant Polignac now rode forward and took command. With tears of grief and rage in their eyes, the yelling men followed Polignac. They ran through the deadly hail, determined to avenge the death of their leader. Mouton's division lost about one third of its total strength." General Taylor lamented Mouton's death by stating that "Above all the death of the gallant Mouton affected me...modest, unselfish, and patriotic. He showed best in action always leading his men."

Jean Jacques Alfred Alexander Mouton was buried on the battlefield at Mansfield. In 1874 he was reinterred at St. John's Cemetery in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Quotes from the Heroes

"Too often we limit our study of history to those who were famous. Men and women, great as they were, were the celebrities of their era, and we tend to think in terms of them and how they impacted history. While we do not wish to diminish the accomplishments of those famous statesmen and soldiers of the past, we would also like to remember our ancestors. Whether they were a soldier, a sailor, a farmer, a shopkeeper, housewife, it makes no difference. If they lived through the WBTS, they were heroes in one way or another. The hero is not always the one in the press, it may be the farm family that struggled to endure the shortages of all materials, including labor, trying to keep food on the table and send a little to the soldiers. It could have been that soldier that spent months or years away from home fighting, suffering, sacrificing and sometimes paying the ultimate price in combat or to disease, but offering their life up for the freedom of the families, both current and those in the future. It might have been the granddaddy having to bring out the shotgun and join a county home guard unit to defend the area from Sherman's devastation, or the terrified child who ran to the woods, hiding food from the marauding bummers. Heroic acts were performed daily, without fanfare or even notice, but men, women and children, the young and the old, the privates and the generals and all in-between. History comes alive for those who read and research it when they connect with those famous events through an ancestor."

Military Service Branch (NNMS)
National Archives and Records Administration
7th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
[Source: Southern Heritage News and Views]

Cultures in Conflict

"The attack against Biblical Christianity has moved from a physical desecration of church property and the arrest of ministers to an even more subtle form of harassment and control. This present day method is by far more effective in achieving its desired end. This method is a combination of such sinister forces as syncretism or the blending of incongruous belief systems such as paganism, multiculturalism, and egalitarianism with Biblical Christianity. Therefore the whole of American society is now experiencing a cultural, racial, and religious apostasy. Militarily, the South lost the war on the battlefield, but it was western civilization as a whole that lost in its churches, state houses, homes, and in the minds and souls of its people".

Source: "Cultures In Conflict" by Charles A. Jennings [pg. 99]

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**