

February 2015



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. By this time we hope all of our deer hunters have meat in the freezer and a good tale to accompany it.

Mardi Gras season is also over. We hope all of you were safe during this time of revelry. One good thing about meeting at the Dew Drop Inn; the parade schedule will not interfere with our meetings any more. We all enjoy our fellowship at the Dew Drop. Powell and company certainly are the best of hosts.

Sadly we have learned of the death of Camp 11 member Jessie Smelly. Our hearts and prayers go out to this family in this season of loss.

Your editor must make a confession. I got excited when I learned about the Afrikaans folk song "Daar Kom Die Alabama. If I had gone to our Camp 11 web page I would have known about it. Point being; visit our web page and the next time you see our webmaster, Joe Locicerro, give him a pat on the back. He does a tremendous job with the web page.

Make your plans now not to miss a Camp 11 meeting over the next few months. Our camp makes a sincere effort to fill our meetings with fun, fellowship and information regarding the beloved Heritage. The next few meetings will fill the bill.

In February [23rd] we will have Jed Marnum and Rickey Pittman with us. Jed and Rickey are musicians and Rickey has written several books. This should be a fun filled evening.

March [30th] will bring one of our own. Ken Wyatt, our resident Kentucky Colonel, will bring a program about Louisville's historic Cave Hill National Cemetery. I am sure all of us will be interested in what Ken has to say about Cave Hill.

In April [27th] we will hear of the excitement of Captain Semmes' arrival in Cape Town. So much excitement was created that there is an Afrikaans folk song about the event, "Dar Kom die Alabama". This program will be a presentation by Paul Brueske who is associated with the University of South Alabama. This should be a very exciting program.

Now for May [25th]. This is where we need your help. Normally our May meeting is off in attendance and that is why we have always had our annual "show and tell" program. Not this time. We are happy to announce that Miss Cassie Gray will be our speaker in May. Many of y'all are familiar with Cassie, she is the editor of the e-zine, "The Stainless Banner".

June [29th] will again bring one of our own. Compatriot Tom Root will share the details of the destruction of Charleston, S.C. by the pyromaniac Sherman. This is a very good program that will leave your blood boiling.

Folks, this is a line-up second to none. We meet at the Dew Drop Inn at 1808 Old Shell Road on the

last Monday night of each month. We eat and greet at 6pm and meet at 7pm. Come and be a part of our Camp 11 fellowship.

And lastly, don't forget your prayers for our camp and its members.
Best regards,
Terry W. "Beetle" Bailey
Editor, The Admiral's Log

Minutes from our December Meeting

14 December 2014

At the beginning of the Christmas Party, Commander Ringhoffer called a meeting to order.

Chaplain Sid Phillips, III, led the invocation.

Robert Chappelle, Jr. was unanimously accepted for membership.

The painting which had been donated to the Camp was given to Powell Hamlin in appreciation for all he does for the Camp including the preparation of the food for the Christmas Party.

Compatriot Rodgers received the Compatriot of the Year award which was presented by Joe DuPree, Chairman of the Memorials Committee.

1st Lt. Commander Bailey presided over the door prizes drawing.

A good time was had by all.

Chaplain Phillips offered the benediction as the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes

Admiral Semmes, Camp 11

Sons of Confederate Veterans

26 January 2015

The meeting was called to order by Commander Ringhoffer with the invocation given by Chaplain Sid Phillips III. The pledge to the U.S. flag and salutes to the Alabama flag and the Confederate flag followed.

Guests included Arthur McCants, Bob Moulton and Mike Rogers. After a lengthy absence Colonel McDonald and his wife were in attendance and recognized.

Delivering the program was Compatriot Joe DuPree. He narrated a new powerpoint presentation of the work that has been done at Ft. McDermott. Many slides showed portions of the site before work was started and after reclamation. One slide showed the abitis and rifle pit that has been reconstructed in front of the lower parapet. The Alabama Division will celebrate its 2015 Sesquicentennial Event at Ft. McDermott on April 11. At that time the Camp will commemorate Confederate Memorial Day and Ft. McDermott will be dedicated as Fort McDermott Confederate Memorial Park.

Boatswain Tom Root read a humorous selection from the Admiral's memoirs. The Admiral reflected on a time in which there was a lull in the fighting. Liquor was not allowed to be brought aboard and each man was provided with with an allowance of grog twice each day. The Admiral insisted on good hygiene among the men and always had adequate supplies that were seized from yankee ships: and therefore he never lost a man from disease. He kept them so busy they had no time to think, and upon occasion a sea lawyer would enlist. The Admiral got rid of him quickly.

Adjutant Rodgers reported that the Request for Funds to SCV HQ was in the process of being completed. February 2nd is the deadline for submission.

Paymaster Christmas reported that membership cards had been mailed and asked for a show of hands of those who had not yet received cards. No hands were raised.

Commander Ringhoffer reported there is no camp sponsoring the 2018 National Convention. He also mentioned members of Camp #11 who are ill. He expressed thanks for those who participated and attended the Lee-Jackson Salute at Confederate Rest on January 18.

Colonel McDonald reported on the first day issue of the stamp of the Battle of Mobile Bay.

Compatriot Barrett reported that historic markers have been placed at their appropriate sites in Spanish Fort. Only one sign is yet to be erected.

Compatriot Wyatt reported that the UDC has a fund-raising campaign underway to raise \$14,000.00 to restore a flag.

1st Lt. Commander Bailey reported that the February and March programs are set. There will be grave marking headstone dedication on March 7 at Magnolia Cemetery. He reported on other activities and reenactments that are listed in the Admiral's Log.

Compatriot DuPree announced a workday at Ft. McDermott on Thursday, January 29. Much work remains to be done before April 11.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned with a benediction by Chaplain Phillips and a reading of the General Stephen Dill Lee's charge by 1st Lt. Commander Bailey.

Outlaws or Patriots

"Were They "Western Outlaws" Or Were They Really Southern Patriots?"

by All Benson, Jr. as published in The Copperhead Chronicle

Volume 17, Number Four, Fourth Quarter AD 2014

I subscribe to The Copperhead Chronicle which is written and published by Al Benson, Jr. Many of you are familiar with Mr. Benson as he has collaborated with the Kennedy brothers on several projects. The latest edition has an article about the James Gang raid on the First National Bank in Northfield, Minnesota. So what does this raid have to do with our Confederate Heritage? It is an interesting story and hopefully I can shed some light on the subject based on Mr. Benson's article.

Here is the background. Adelbert Ames, a former Yankee officer, impeached Reconstruction governor of Mississippi, and son in law of Benjamin Butler, as well as Ole Spoons himself had money and investments in Northfield. Marley Bryant writes in "Jesse James-The Myth and the Man that: "The Eastern power elite had decided to expand its domination of the area after they had gained control of most of the Midwestern banking institutions." Mr. Benson points out that these fat cat Yankees controlled the banks and railroads in Jesse James' country and you can be assured that there was little sympathy for the good Southern folks in this area.

In the article Mr. Benson makes reference to the movie "Outlaw Josey Wales". In the opening scenes we see our Missouri heroes summarily executed [murdered] by the notorious Yankee scumbag General James Lane [Jayhawker Jim]. In the movie Lane said, "They were decently fed and decently shot."

Mr. Benson says that Clint Eastwood did not make another western movie for over nine years. Benson further states that "I have often wondered if the Hollywood moguls pulled Ol' Clint aside and informed him that if he wanted his career in tinsel town to continue then he'd better not ever make another movie like that one." Of course a few years later another historically accurate movie about the Missouri/Kansas Border War lasted only three weeks in the theaters. It seems that "Ride With the Devil" was "a touchy subject that our shadow government would rather we not explore in any depth."

We hear about the atrocities of Andersonville but not of Camp Chase, Elmira, and Point Lookout.....

We hear about the atrocities of the Klan but not of those by the Union League.

We hear about that horrible Quantrill and the destruction of Lawrence, Kansas but it is inconvenient to refer to the Jayhawker and Red Leg atrocities perpetrated on the good Southern folk of Missouri.

And we live in a country where many people still do not see John Brown for what he was, the first American terrorist.

The Jayhawker doctor, Joseph Trego, was disgusted with what he saw. In reference to the command he was serving with "he noted, most were"... villains who joined the force for protection in their plundering operations." Indeed a fine example of "Lawful federal authority."

Jesse James knew too well about the Yankee version of "lawful federal authority." As he and Frank

made their way to Lexington, Mo. for "their promised amnesty" they were fired upon by Yankee troops. Jesse was wounded.

Brant wrote: "Jesse said he knew he had no choice but to surrender to the Union, even though he was gravely ill. He swore the oath of loyalty while lying on his sickbed. There is at least some credibility to Jesse's story. His name does appear on the roster of Confederates who surrendered at Lexington. " "[Even after they shot him.]"

In his book, "Jesse James Was My Neighbor", Homer Croy writes that: "No one was permitted to practice law, teach, or preach unless he had first taken the 'Iron-clad oath'." A meal or a night's lodging for a Confederate could get a citizen thrown into jail.

Nat Rudolph in "The Rape of Missouri" writes that: "Those who served the Southern cause as partisans were promised by proclamations issued by Lincoln and the Unionist Governor that if they laid down their arms and went home they would be forgiven after taking the pledge of loyalty. But according to Attorney General Edward Bates, most of those attempting to do so were 'ruthlessly shot and hung by the soldiery.'"

Many of Jesse's comrades witnessed this and refused amnesty. The shooting of Jesse James only reinforced the sentiment. Do we wonder why the court historians "have neglected to tell us very much of this."? I think not.

Croy like Brant also comments about Reconstruction banking. "He said, "Banks were unregulated; they ground the people down and the people hated them..." The legend of the Western outlaw was born in Liberty, Mo. in February of 1866. This was the first bank robbery in America. This legend lived for the next 60 years. "But these "Western" outlaws were so much Southern patriots that, when they rode down the main street of Liberty, Missouri, they all gave the well-known "rebel yell." "Western outlaws or Southern patriots? You decide."

[William F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) served in the Union Cavalry but very rarely talked about it, preferring to talk about his post-war adventures in the West. You see, Cody was a trooper in the 7th Kansas Cavalry "Red Legs" outfit and was reluctant to say much about it. The only thing of note he ever said about it all was the following quote (or confession): "We were the biggest gang of thieves on record." This bit of info on Cody comes from a Missouri SCV friend.]

A Sesquicentennial Moment, February 1865

Feb. 1st: Sherman begins his march into South Carolina.

Feb. 6th: BG John Pegram is killed by Yankee troops at Boydton Plank Road [Petersburg Lines].

Feb. 17th: Sherman puts Columbia, S. C., to the torch.

Feb. 18th: The CSS Shenandoah completes her refit in Melbourne, Australia, and sails for the North Pacific.

Feb. 22nd: Wilmington, N. C. is occupied by the invader.

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

Quotes from our Heroes

On February 6th, 1865 Confederate General John Pegram was killed in battle. On January 19th he had married Hetty Cary, a Richmond socialite who was known as the "handsomest woman in the Southland." The wedding was attended by many high ranking Confederate officials including the President and Varina. The following letter was sent to Hetty from General Robert E. Lee upon the death of her husband.

"I cannot find words to express my deep sympathy in your affliction, my sorrow at your loss. God alone can give you strength to bear the blow he has inflicted, and since it has been death by his hand I know it was sent in mercy. As dear as your husband was to you, as necessary apparently to his Country and as important to his friends, I feel assured it was best for him to go at the moment he did. His purity of character, his services to the Country and his devotion to his God, prepared him for the peace and rest he now enjoys. We are left to grieve at his departure, cherish his memory and prepare

to follow. May God give us his Grace, that through the mediation of his blessed Son, we may be ready to obey his gracious Summons.

Truly and affectionately your friend
R E Lee

WBTS Usage

June rise: The Upper Mississippi River's rise brought on by spring rains.

To make a number: to see the number of a US Navy vessel so that it could be identified.

Pass: a written authorization for a person or group to travel through military lines.

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

Confederate Birthdays

BG Gilbert Moxley Sorrel was born in Savannah, Georgia, on February 23, 1838 .By July of 1861 he was serving under Gen. Longstreet. Longstreet said that Sorrel "came into the battle as gaily as a beau, and seemed to receive orders which threw him into more exposed positions with particular delight." One writer called him the best staff officer in the Confederacy. After the war he returned to Savannah where he was a businessman and a writer. Sorrel wrote "Reflections of a Confederate Staff Officer". BG Moxley Sorrel died on August 10, 1901 and is at rest in Laurel Grove Cemetery [North] in Savannah, Georgia.

Events

March 7th: Confederate headstone dedication and memorial service at Magnolia Cemetery in Mobile.

March 14th–15th: Reenactment of the Battle for Cuba Station in Gainesville, Ala. This event will commemorate the sesquicentennial of Forrest's surrender at Gainesville.

March 28th-29th: The reunion of the descendants of the 38th Alabama Infantry Regiment at the Clarke County Museum in Grove Hill, Alabama. This will be the second time that your editor has attended this event. It is truly a time of some blessed Confederate fellowship.

April 11th: Division Heritage Rally and Confederate Memorial service at Ft. McDermott. Details will be forthcoming.

April 12th: Ft. Blakeley SCV Camp Confederate Memorial Service at Point Clear, Ala.

April 25th-26th: Reenactment of the Battle of Selma. This is also a sesquicentennial event.

Visit Camp 11 on the World Wide Web.

<http://scvsemmes.org/index.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/admiralsemmes11?ref=hl>

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