

May2015



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.

This month is a bittersweet moment as the curtain closes on the Sesquicentennial of the WBTS. In spite of this feeling we have made some very precious memories over the past four years and especially over the last few weeks.

On April 30th Matilda and I spent the day at Beauvoir participating in the annual Confederate Memorial service. It was an honor for our camp to participate in this event.

On May 2nd we went to Citronelle, Alabama, to commemorate the surrender of General Taylor. This was a very successful event and the folks of Citronelle were appreciative of this effort. We must say thank you to the following Camp 11 members for their participation: Claude Turberville and family, Donovan Holifield and family, Mr. Jessie Taylor, and Dustin Marshall.

On May 9th Claude and I made the trip to Gainesville, Alabama, to commemorate the surrender of General Forrest. On Saturday there was a ceremony at the surrender monument. On Sunday yours truly was honored to be the master of the ceremony at the annual memorial service in the Gainesville Cemetery. Truly it was a wonderful weekend of honoring our beloved Heritage.

This past weekend has been a weekend to make us proud to be in the Alabama Division. The Union Springs controversy was settled and we had the Rededication of Confederate Circle in Selma. It was also the occasion for the Second Unveiling of the Forrest Monument.

Regarding Union Springs, many of you are aware that a local Negro politician removed Confederate flags from the graves of our heroes. Commander Gary Carlyle met with the mayor of Union Springs and came to an agreement that was acceptable to all parties. During the month of April the Confederate flags will be placed on the Confederate graves. During the week of Memorial Day the SCV will honor all veterans buried in the cemetery with Confederate and American flags being placed on the graves of all veterans.

Regarding Selma, all of you are aware of the conflict over the Forrest Monument. This controversy wound up in court and the issue was settled in favor of our Cause. May 23rd was a day of commemoration and celebration in the Historic Oakwood Cemetery. I like would encourage all of you to visit Oakwood to see the improvements at Confederate Circle. It was an honor for me to represent Camp 11 at this event on Saturday.

Our next meeting will be at the Dew Drop Inn on May 25. Powell and his crew are off for the weekend so there will be no food or drink from the Dew Drop. The meeting starts at 7pm. We also want to take this opportunity to thank Powell for providing us with a place to meet. Three Cheers for the Dew Drop Inn!

In closing, as usual, please continue to pray for our camp and its members. Lord knows we can use the intercession of our Heavenly Guardian.

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

Minutes

Admiral Semmes, Camp 11
27 April 2015

Sons of Confederate Veterans Commander Ringhoffer called the meeting to order and recognized guests Carl Broussard and Judge George Hardesty.

Quartermaster Darrell Neese gave the invocation.

Boatswain Tom Root delivered the program entitled "The Burning and Sack of Columbia, SC". The program chronicled the destruction of South Carolina's capital by the vandal army of General Sherman in February 1865. The basis of the program was from the writings of Southern author William Gilmore Simms.

1st Lt. Commander Beetle Bailey read a passage from Memoirs of Service Afloat in which Admiral Semmes recalled how a group of Muslims met the voyage of the CSS Alabama.

Commander Ringhoffer:

1. A large urn was recently dedicated to the memory of Electra Semmes Colton in the Semmes plot in Catholic Cemetery.
2. Compatriot Barry Booth is donating a 20' flag pole for the parade ground at Ft. McDermott.
3. Compatriot Booth also was successful in recruiting Ashley Knight of WKRG to film the dedication of Ft. McDermott Confederate Memorial Park.
4. Bob Bradley, head archivist for the Alabama Department of Archives and History visited Ft. McDermott on April 10 and praised the Camp on its efforts to restore the site. His talk on the Battle of Spanish Fort is available on YouTube.
5. The Commander circulated his copy of Alabama's Great Seal in its original case. It is one of only 1,000 made following the War of Northern Aggression.
6. The Alabama Division Meeting will be held in Tallassee on June 5th.
7. Compatriot Mike Riley was recognized for driving the shuttle bus during the dedication. And therefore he missed the entire event because of his service to those in attendance.
8. Parts of the dedication at Ft. McDermott are posted on the 'History of Spanish Fort' FaceBook page.

1st Lt. Commander Bailey:

1. Ft. McDermott was named for a CSS Naval Officer, Lt. McDermott of Louisiana.
2. Upcoming events include the surrender of Citronelle and the surrender of General Forrest at Gainesville.
3. Compatriot Ken Wyatt will bring the program in May. No 'show and tell' as is customary for the May meeting.

Compatriot Claude Turberville shared that several sesquicentennial stamps are now available at the U.S. Post Office.

Memorials Chairman Joe DuPree gave his report in which he commented on the huge success of the dedication of Ft. McDermott.

New Business:

Compatriot Gordon Cook motioned that Ashley Knight, who covered the Ft. McDermott dedication, be presented a certificate of appreciation. The motion was seconded and passed.

A motion to accept Carl J. Broussard for membership was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Paymaster Christmas acknowledged the tremendous efforts of Compatriot DuPree who led the charge to restore Ft. McDermott and dedicate it as Ft. McDermott Confederate Memorial Park.

Compatriot Neese delivered the benediction; Compatriot Bailey read the Charge of General Stephen D. Lee; and the meeting was adjourned.

(Adjutant's Note: A special thank you to Compatriot Tom Root for taking the the notes for me during my absence for this meeting. Thank you Tom!)

A Sesquicentennial Moment

May 4: General Richard Taylor surrenders 42,000 Confederates in the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana at Citronelle, Alabama.

May 6: The CSS Stonewall Jackson arrives in Nassau.

May 9: General Nathan Bedford Forrest surrenders at Gainesville, Alabama.

May 19: The CSS Stonewall Jackson surrenders in Havana, Cuba.

May 21: The CSS Shenandoah is in pursuit of northern whalers in the Sea of Okhotsk.

May 25: 20 tons of gunpowder captured in Mobile explodes in a local warehouse. There were 300 casualties and extensive damage especially near the docks.

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

Quotes from our Heroes

SOLDIERS:

By an agreement made between Lieut.-Gen. Taylor, commanding the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana, and Major-Gen. Canby, commanding United States forces, the troops of this department have been surrendered.

I do not think it proper or necessary at this time to refer to causes which have reduced us to this extremity; nor is it now a matter of material consequence to us how such results were brought about. That we are BEATEN is a self-evident fact, and any further resistance on our part would justly be regarded as the very height of folly and rashness.

The armies of Generals LEE and JOHNSON having surrendered. You are the last of all the troops of the Confederate States Army east of the Mississippi River to lay down your arms.

The Cause for which you have so long and so manfully struggled, and for which you have braved dangers, endured privations, and sufferings, and made so many sacrifices, is today hopeless. The government which we sought to establish and perpetuate, is at an end. Reason dictates and humanity demands that no more blood be shed. Fully realizing and feeling that such is the case, it is your duty and mine to lay down our arms -- submit to the "powers that be" -- and to aid in restoring peace and establishing law and order throughout the land.

The terms upon which you were surrendered are favorable, and should be satisfactory and acceptable to all. They manifest a spirit of magnanimity and liberality, on the part of the Federal authorities, which should be met, on our part, by a faithful compliance with all the stipulations and conditions therein expressed. As your Commander, I sincerely hope that every officer and soldier of my command will cheerfully obey the orders given, and carry out in good faith all the terms of the cartel.

Those who neglect the terms and refuse to be paroled, may assuredly expect, when arrested, to be sent North and imprisoned. Let those who are absent from their commands, from whatever cause, report at once to this place, or to Jackson, Miss.; or, if too remote from either, to the nearest United States post or garrison, for parole.

Civil war, such as you have just passed through naturally engenders feelings of animosity, hatred, and revenge. It is our duty to divest ourselves of all such feelings; and as far as it is in our power to do so, to cultivate friendly feelings towards those with whom we have so long contended, and heretofore so widely, but honestly, differed. Neighborhood feuds, personal animosities, and private differences should be blotted out; and, when you return home, a manly, straightforward course of conduct will secure the respect of your enemies. Whatever your responsibilities may be to Government, to society, or to individuals meet them like men.

The attempt made to establish a separate and independent Confederation has failed; but the consciousness of having done your duty faithfully, and to the end, will, in some measure, repay for the hardships you have undergone.

In bidding you farewell, rest assured that you carry with you my best wishes for your future welfare and happiness. Without, in any way, referring to the merits of the Cause in which we have been engaged, your courage and determination, as exhibited on many hard-fought fields, has elicited the respect and admiration of friend and foe. And I now cheerfully and gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness to the officers and men of my command whose zeal, fidelity and unflinching bravery have been the great source of my past success in arms.

I have never, on the field of battle, sent you where I was unwilling to go myself; nor would I now advise you to a course which I felt myself unwilling to pursue. You have been good soldiers, you can be good citizens. Obey the laws, preserve your honor, and the Government to which you have surrendered can afford to be, and will be, magnanimous.

N.B. Forrest, Lieut.-General

Headquarters, Forrest's Cavalry Corps
Gainesville, Alabama

WBTS Usage

Light ball: an oval artillery projectile made of a canvas sack with a flammable substance.

Loose bowels: Slang for a surgeon because many soldiers associated this prevalent condition with visits to the post and field hospitals.

Loophole: gun ports cut into the walls of a building or formed with sandbags in fieldworks.

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

Confederate Birthdays

Brigadier General Thomas Harrison was born in Jefferson County, Alabama on May 1, 1823. He was raised in Monroe County, Mississippi and moved to Texas 1843. He studied law and opened a practice in Waco, Texas. During the Mexican War he returned to Mississippi to serve with the 1st Mississippi Rifles under the command of Jefferson Davis. During the WBTS his militia company served with the 8th Texas Cavalry Regiment, "Terry's Texas Rangers". Harrison served most of the war in the Western Theater and at the end of the war his brigade was assigned to LG Wade Hampton's corps. After parole in Macon, Georgia, Harrison returned to Texas and resumed his law practice and was also elected as a district judge. General Thomas Harrison died on July 14, 1891 and is at rest in the Oakwood Cemetery at Waco.

Yankees Doing What Yankees Do Best

Henry Kyd Douglas was the youngest member of Jackson's staff. He kept a diary during the WBTS.

Page 314: Under instructions from Grant, Sheridan set his cavalry to work on their campaign of arson, rapine and starvation. General Wesley Merritt says, more in a tone of satisfaction than regret, that on its return his cavalry "was deployed across the Valley (Shenandoah), burning, destroying or taking away everything of value or likely to become of value to the enemy," until, he adds, "the Valley from Staunton to Winchester was completely devastated." With an air of soldierly pride he reports officially, October 5th, that his division alone destroyed from Port Republic to Tom's Brook 650 barns, 47 mills, 410,742 bushels of wheat, 515 acres of corn, etc., etc., to the amount of \$3,304,672. Sheridan reported to Grant 2,000 well-filled barns, 70 mills, wheat, grain, etc., destroyed. They both omit to mention the private dwellings which their troops, drunk with their license to burn, laid in ashes and the unspeakable suffering and horrors they brought on innocent women and children. It is almost impossible to believe that a soldier with the reputation and distinction of General Wesley Merritt could have been an actor in such inhumanity. The reader may imagine what other officers and soldiers with

less noblesse did and permitted to be done. For the decency of humanity it is well that a veil has been thrown over some of their fiendish acts. Official authority for much of the destruction has been denied; but when a general says to his soldiers, "Go forth and burn and destroy," what can he expect? [Thanks to Ellen Williams for sharing this]

The South was right in 1861. We are right today. The constitutional cause for which our ancestors fought was just and righteous. Issues settled at the end of a gun barrel will never be settled in people's hearts. We should have the courage to stand against tyranny, as our Confederate ancestors did.

Long live the righteous and constitutional cause for which our ancestors fought and fell. Long live those who will defend truth and our southern heritage. God will vindicate. God save the South! Cecil Williamson Selma, Alabama [This quote comes from Mr. Williamson's Confederate Memorial address in Montgomery on April 27, 2015.]

Reflections from the Editor's Desk

While attending the Citronelle event I read the historical marker for the umpteenth time. I noticed that it had been dedicated on May 4, 1965. It was certainly an honor to be standing there 50 years later.

It was then that a thought entered my mind. As descendants of a noble race of people and especially as members of the SCV we have a grave and serious responsibility lying before us. We must ask ourselves: "Will my descendants be at Ft McDermott or Citronelle or Gainesville or at numerous other Heritage sites in 2065?"

All it takes is for one generation to turn its back on the Heritage and it will be gone forever.

Let us never be found guilty of dereliction of duty to our Heritage. God Bless the South!

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

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**