

August 2015



**The Admiral's Log**  
**Sons of Confederate Veterans**  
1211 Government St., Mobile, AL 36604  
**Raphael Semmes Camp 11**



Dear Compatriots and Friends of Camp 11,

Greetings and salutations from Camp 11. We hope this edition of the Admiral's Log finds all of you doing well. The best thing about August is that September is on the way. This little touch of a late summer cool spell serves as a reminder that football season and hunting season will be here soon.

On August 15 several Camp 11 members participated in the Canoe Flag and Monument dedication ceremony. Claude and I with Matilda and the Bull Pup provided the artillery for the occasion. Dustin Marshall, Jessie Taylor, Tom Root, and Commander Ringhoffer also attended. The flag was a beautiful sight as it reached the top of the pole for the first time and a gentle breeze unfurled it. Congratulations to the Carney Camp of Atmore for a successful camp project.

Our next camp meeting will be on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Make your plans to attend. Our program will be about the cult of Islam.

On September 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm Beauvoir will have the annual Voices from the Past cemetery walk at the Beauvoir Cemetery. Yours truly will portray Washington Brown Traweek who escaped from Hellmira. Fall Muster at Beauvoir is on October 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>.

Please say your prayers.

Best regards,

Terry W. "Beetle" Bailey

Editor, The Admiral's Log

## Minutes

Admiral Semmes, Camp 11

Sons of Confederate Veterans

27 July 2015

The meeting was called to order with Chaplain Sid Phillips, III, leading in prayer. Commander Joe Ringhoffer then led in the pledge to the US flag and salutes to the CSA and Alabama flags.

The program was given by Judge Advocate David Toifel. He encouraged the men of the Camp to remain dedicated and strong in the defense of our heritage.

Compatriot Oliver Semmes said that someone is needed who will display the tile mural of the trips of the CSA Alabama. The mural was removed from the former Alabama Welcome Center on I-10 which was demolished for the new station being built. The mural is currently in storage.

Boatswain Tom Root read a selection from Admiral Semmes memoirs. As he traveled by train to Mobile to take command of the CSA Sumter, the woods were ablaze as he entered Alabama near West Point, GA. He thought of how one book of his life was over and another book was to beginning to be written.

Compatriot Shannon Fontaine has been leading the flagging around the monuments on the Capitol grounds in Montgomery.

A discussion was held on the Division's flag program and the land the Camp owns on I-65. Division Executive Committee is meeting on August 8 and an amendment is being made to allow a camp to use the flag funds from the Division and add other funds to meet their flag placement goals. Several years ago, Colonel McDonald did an extensive report on erecting a flag pole and flag at the site. Compatriot Mike Riley reported on the National Convention held in Richmond, VA, earlier in the month.

The first flag to fly under the Division's program will be dedicated on August 15 in Canoe, AL.

Paymaster Charlie Christmas announced he had flags available to purchase.

Memorials Chairman Joe DuPree reported that a bush-hog is needed at Ft. McDermott. Also the third national is flying at Confederate Rest. He also mentioned that the Heritage Bill under consideration by the Alabama Legislature is Senate Bill 12.

Adjutant Rodgers reported issues using gmail to send notices to the Camp.

Under old business, Commander Ringhoffer reported that he did deliver a commendation to Ashley Knight for her reporting.

Lt. Commander Beetle Bailey will check with the Mississippi Division concerning support for the Anthony Hurley family.

The following men were approved unanimously for membership:

Gilllis Bennett

Kenneth Traver

Gordon Cook, Jr.

Dustin Hubbard

Phillip Toifel

Stacy Hatfield

Chaplain Phillips adjourned the meeting in prayer and was followed by 2nd Lt. Commander Bailey reading the charge of General Stephen Dill Lee.

## The Black Flag

The black flag symbolizes the offering of "no quarter" towards one's enemy. The most famous Black Flag of the WBTS is that of Captain William Quantrill and the Missouri Partisan Rangers. But where did the notion of black flag warfare come from?

On December 22, 1861 General Henry Halleck issued General Order Number 2. In part it stated: "All persons are hereby warned that if they join any guerilla band they will not, if captured, be treated as ordinary prisoners-of-war, but will be hung as robbers and murderers." Halleck raised the black

flag in Missouri.

Union Generals James Blunt and Samuel Curtis endorsed this order as well. About the Missouri Partisan Rangers they stated: "They shall not be treated as prisoners-of-war but be summarily tried by drumhead court martial, and if proved guilty, be executed by hanging or shooting on the spot, as no punishment can be too prompt or severe for such a natural enemies of the human race." Yankee arrogance is resounding in that statement.

Major Henry Curtis, the son of General Curtis, was captured with a copy of this order in his procession. When the Missouri Partisan Rangers questioned him on his intent to carry out such an order, he emphatically stated yes, he would carry out the order. Major Curtis was executed on the spot.

We can conclude that Colonel Quantrill and the Missouri Partisan Rangers were answering Yankee depredations in kind.

#### At Arlington

James Ryder Randall was the poet who wrote "Maryland! My Maryland!".

"Although Randall continued to write poetry after the war, all his efforts were overshadowed by "Maryland! My, Maryland!" which he felt was not as good as some of his postwar poems. It had "handicapped" him, he said. He had written better poems, but the world still honored him primarily as the author of that wartime lyric."

The best of these postwar poems, he thought, was "At Arlington". Its inspiration came from an incident that occurred at Arlington Cemetery several years after the war. During a ceremonial decoration of the graves of Federal soldiers fallen in the war, a group of women entered the grounds intending to lay flowers on the graves of the thirty Confederate soldiers also interred there. They were stopped at bayonet point and turned back. During the night high winds swept across the burial field. In the morning, the flowers placed on the Federal plots the day before decorated the thirty Confederate graves. To Randall, it seemed as God himself had intervened; he commemorated the incident with that poem."

[Source: Singing the New Nation by E. Lawrence Abel, page 79]

Jehovah judged, abashing man;  
For the vigils of the night,  
His mighty storm-avengers ran  
Together in our choral clan,  
Rebuking wrong, rewarding right;  
Plucking the wreaths from those who won,  
The tempest, heaped them dewy bright  
On Rebel graves at Arlington

One hundred fifty years later Southerners are still staring at a Federal bayonet.

#### Fiddlin' on the Alabama

"Confederate ships also had fiddlers on board. The "Alabama" had an Irish fiddler who "was the life of the forecastle." During off duty hours he would play while fellow seaman danced to his lighter strains. Sometimes he orchestrated mock battles, dividing the crew into Northerners or Southerners and set them fighting "to the spirit-stirring strains of a march, in which the Northerners [were] invariably beaten."

[Source: "Singing the new Nation" by E. Lawrence Abel, pg. 170]

This Month in the WBTS

August 24, 1862: The CSS Alabama was officially commissioned off the island of Terceira, Azores, to begin a two year career of plundering US merchant vessels.

August 13, 1863: The jail in Kansas City, Kansas, collapsed killing several female prisoners who were associated with members of the Missouri Partisan Rangers. This was the spark that ignited Colonel Quantrill's Lawrence, Kansas Raid.

August 21, 1863: Colonel William Quantrill and 450 Missouri Partisan Rangers raid Lawrence, Kansas. This was retribution for Yankee atrocities in Missouri, specifically for the Jayhawker destruction of Osceola, Missouri.

A Sesquicentennial Moment

On August 2, 1865, the CSS Shenandoah learned from a British vessel, two weeks out of San Francisco, that the WBTS was truly over. Reluctantly Captain Waddell stowed his weapons below decks and set out on a 17,000-mile voyage to England.

. [Source: "1400 Days The US Civil War Day by Day" by C. Bishop, I. Drury, and T. Gibbons]

### WBTS Usage

Marsilly Carriage: a cast-iron gun carriage capable of bearing most weapons up to the 9-inch Dahlgren. A June 1863 inventory of the CSS Atlanta revealed that two of these carriages were on board for broadside guns.

Binnacle: a sturdy container that held a ship's compass and a light to illuminate the dial at night.

Free-soiler: a resident of any western territory, but specifically Kansas, who advocated the abolition of slavery in any area that may seek statehood.

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

### A Confederate Birthday

Brigadier General Francis Reddin Tillou Nichols was born on August 20, 1834, at Donaldsonville, Louisiana. In 1855, he graduated from West Point, was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant, served in the Louisiana Seminole War and resigned his commission in 1857. He then attended the University of Louisiana, receiving a law degree and opened a practice in Napoleonville, Louisiana. With the advent of the Civil War, he joined the Confederate Army as a Lieutenant Colonel, fought at the First Battle of Bull Run and at Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, where he lost his left arm. In October 1862, he was promoted Brigadier General and placed in command of a Brigade of the Louisiana Infantry. During the Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia, in May 1863, he lost his left foot. Disabled from further field command; he directed the Volunteer and Conscript Bureau until the end of the war. After the war he returned to his law practice in Napoleonville, Louisiana and was elected the 28th Louisiana Governor in 1876. As Governor, he served two terms first (1876-80) and then (1888-92). After he left office, he served as Chief Justice of the Louisiana State Supreme Court 1892 to 1911. Nichols State University in Thibodaux is named in honor of General Nichols. General Nichols died on January 4, 1912, and is at rest in St. Johns Cemetery in Thibodaux, Louisiana. [Source: Find A Grave]

### Quotes from Our Heroes

"My purpose was to weaken the armies invading Virginia, by harassing their rear... To destroy supply trains, to break up the means of conveying intelligence, and thus isolating an army from its base, as well as its different corps from each other, to confuse their plans by capturing their dispatches, are the objects of partisan war. It is just as legitimate to fight an enemy in the rear as in the front. The only difference is in the danger". John S. Mosby

"Most of the histories used in our schools are too brief to give a correct idea of the subject, yet it is very important that it should be understood. I believed in the beginning of the war that the South was

right, and I believe it now. And I believe further that if this government lasts a hundred years longer, and continues to be a nation of free people, it will be because the principles of political liberty, for which the South contended, survive the shock of that tremendous revolution. For this reason, if for no other, the position of the South should be understood.” S. A. Steel, 1914

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<http://scvsemmes.org/index.html>  
<https://www.facebook.com/admiralsemmes11?ref=hl>

*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**