

September 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. Hooray for fall weather. Fall is a Southerner's reward for surviving summer.

September has been a fun month. The Alabama UDC held their convention in Mobile. On the 17th I had the privilege of sharing Carlton McCarthy's "Campfires of the Boys in Gray" with them. Then on the 19th Dustin Marshall, Mr. Jessie Taylor and I were the color guard for the banquet. Dennie Spence, a friend from Beauvoir also joined us.

Our next meeting is on September 28th. This is a very special meeting as Donnie Kennedy will be our guest speaker. We will also have our annual birthday salute to Admirals Buchanan and Semmes. We meet at the Dew Drop Inn on Old Shell Road. Eat and greet at 6pm. Meet at 7pm. See you there.

Please remain vigilant with your prayers.

Best regards,

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

Minutes

Admiral Semmes, Camp 11
Sons of Confederate Veterans
31 August 2013

The meeting was called to order by Commander Ringhoffer.

Chaplain Sidney Phillips, III, offered the invocation.

Judge Advocate David Toifel led in the pledge and salutes to the flags.

Guests were recognized by Commander Ringhoffer.

Norman McCrummen, Ph.D., spoke about the rise of radical Islam including ISIS. Dr. McCrummen received a master's degree from American University in Cairo. The degree was in Middle Eastern Affairs. Having lived in Cairo for several years, he experienced the culture at that time. He gave an historical outline dating back to ancient Biblical times. Islam means submission. Muslim is one who is submissive to Allah. Mohammed lived over 600 years later than Christ. And the Koran attempts to tell the history of the Jewish people and differs vastly from the Bible. Islam has sets of Verses. One is the Verses of the Sword and reading from those verses leaves little doubt that Islam is a religion of hate and murder. Dr. McCrummen mentioned the author Brigitte Gabriel for those who may wish to read and study about radical Islam.

Boatswain Tom Root read a selection from the Admiral's memoirs. After the War of Northern Aggression was over and the Admiral returned to the land and his law practice in Mobile, he observed that vines and other plants grow from right to left. And so do the winds of terrible storms one of which he and men of the CSA Alabama experienced in October of 1862. An interesting observation about the laws of nature.

Memorials Chairman Joe DuPree initiated a new educational moment. One will be presented at each meeting. The central theme of this first moment is central to the core values of the founding fathers of both the US and the CSA. The central government is given its powers by 'we the people'.

No reports from the Adjutant nor the Paymaster.

Commander Ringhoffer:

Two monuments have been removed from the University of Texas.

Dixie Highway in Florida has been renamed Obama Highway.

Thanks to the men of our Camp who attended the flag-raising at Canoe.

John McLean offered to pay the membership fees of John Edmund Godson.

John Rather will check into the missing flag at the east entrance of Bankhead Tunnel.

Camp members are urged during the month to take advantage of the good eats at The Dew Drop Inn.

Next meeting Ron Kennedy who wrote the book The South Was Right will speak. And we will celebrate the Admiral's birthday.

Joe DuPree drove over to Beauvoir and began discussions concerning the tile mural of the route of the CSA Alabama. The primary focus in the lobby of the now razed I-10 welcome station, Mike Rogers of the Semmes Family is storing the mural sections and has requested that we find a permanent home.

Alabama Division will meet in Cullman.

National meeting is in Richardson, Texas.

1st Lt. Beetle Bailey reported on the activities at Fort Mims last weekend.

Memorials Chairman DuPree reported that the 1st National is flying at Confederate Rest and the 3rd National is flying at Fort McDermott.

Quartermaster Darrell Neese reported on those who are ill. Prayer is requested.

Under old business, Commander Ringhoffer reported that a contribution has been made on behalf of the Camp to the family of Anthony Hurley. Larry Muse, Division Treasurer, reported that the rules of the Flags for Alabama was amended by the Division Executive Board. Camps may now use the amount the Division provides as part of a larger flag project.

Under new business, Commander Ringhoffer appointed Kyle Toifel as Recruiter for Youth and he will work closely with 1st Lt. Commander Bailey.

Judge Advocate Toifel moved that the camp apply for the funds from the Division for the erection of a Battle Flag on the property we own in Creola. The motion was seconded. After discussion and clarification of the process by Division Treasurer Muse, the motion was amended to determine the dimensions and estimated costs of the project. Then revisit at the September meeting. The amended motion was seconded and approved.

Division Treasurer Muse has transferred his membership to our Camp.

Compatriot Johnny Lee Charles, Jr. has reinstated his membership.

The following men were unanimously approved for membership:

Kent Bailey

Johnny Lee Charles, III

John Tomlin

William Burchfield

Paul Garner

Tim White

Attendance: 55 including guests.

Submitted by Adjutant Bill Rogers

This Month in the WBTS

September 3, 1861: The neutrality of Kentucky came to an end when Gen. Leonidas Polk marched into Kentucky and seized Columbus.

September 4, 1862: The Confederate blockade runner Oreto evades the Federal gunboat Onieda and reaches Mobile.

September 16-19, 1862: The Battle of Antietam, known as the bloodiest day in American history. "Of all the days on all the fields where American soldiers have fought, the most terrible by almost any measure was September 17, 1862. The battle waged on that date, close by Antietam Creek at Sharpsburg in western Maryland, took a human toll never exceeded on any other single day in the nation's history. So intense and sustained was the violence, a man recalled, that for a moment in his mind's eye the very landscape around him turned red."

Excerpt from Stephen W. Sears book, "Landscape Turned Red"

To put the human cost in perspective, a man was killed or wounded, every 2 seconds for 14 hours. Another way of looking at it is 35 were killed per minute. D-Day casualties 6603. World Trade Center 2998. Total Antietam casualties 23,100.

September 19 & 20, 1863: The Battle of Chickamauga.

September 24, 1864: Sheridan begins the destruction of the Shenandoah Valley.

September, 1865: Several Indian tribes sign a treaty of loyalty and renounce their previous commitments to the Confederacy.

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

WBTS Usage

Buffalo: a Unionist from North Carolina.

Shot across the bow: a warning shot fired from ship or shore and designed to pass close to the bow of a vessel without damaging it. This was a warning to either identify yourself or change course.

Scuttlebutt: Gossip or idle talk. To sailors this referred to the butt or cask of fresh water around which men lingered or talked. [Much like the watercooler at work]

Sauerkraut: A nickname for German immigrants in the Union army. Many of these men spoke little English and responded only to German-language commands.

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

A Confederate Birthday

Brigadier General Francis Stebbins Bartow was born on September 6, 1816. He was the first high ranking Georgian killed in the WBTS. He was an attorney, politician, and soldier. He earned his law degree from the University of Georgia with post-graduate study at Yale Law School. Bartow was a fervent secessionist and a member of the Provisional Confederate Congress. When he resigned from congress he stated, "After my public compelling to achieve it I had pledged myself to meet all the consequences of secession. I am bound, therefore, in honor, and still more strongly by duty, to be among the foremost in accepting the bloody consequences which seem to threaten us." Therefore, he resigned from Congress in May to join the Confederate army. In 1856 he was elected captain of Savannah's Oglethorpe Light Infantry and he led them in the recapture of Ft. Pulaski on May 8, 1861. After arriving in Virginia, Bartow was elected colonel of the Eighth Georgia Infantry Regiment. By July 1861 he was in command of a brigade, which he led into combat at the First Battle of Manassas. On July 21, during the defense of Henry House Hill, he seized the regimental colors and attempted to lead a charge on a Union battery, but he was shot through the heart. He died moments later, supposedly uttering the oft-quoted last words, "They have killed me boys, but never give up the field." Gen. Bernard Bee was also killed at Henry House Hill. One of the enduring myths about Bartow is that by the time of his death he had been promoted to brigadier general. No record of this

can be found. Although his leadership of a brigade entitled him to the rank of general (and had he lived he probably would have been promoted to one), nevertheless he died a colonel. Brigadier General Francis S. Bartow is at rest in Savannah's Laurel Grove Cemetery [North].

A Confederate tale from the Facebook page Defending the Heritage

MATTHEW CALBRAITH BUTLER'S (EDGEFIELD, SOUTH CAROLINA – 2ND SOUTH CAROLINA CAVALRY) MISSION FOR THE 1862 CHAMBERSBURG RAID...

Once in Chambersburg, Stuart sent Matthew Calbraith Butler (Edgefield, South Carolina – 2nd South Carolina Cavalry) to confiscate funds held in the local bank. The banker was terrified when they entered that evening as he had two young daughters and feared for their safety. When asked for the funds Butler saw the terror in his eyes and reassured him that no ill would befall him or his daughters if he gave them the funds they were sent there to secure. The banker said that they had been sent away the day before and realized that such a tale was hard to believe.

Butler said perhaps if it had been another time he would have taken him on his word, but under the circumstances of war he must request he opened the vaults. The banker did as instructed. Butler found he had been telling the truth and told the banker it appeared as though he was a man of his word. Realizing he would be unable to fulfill his mission, he said he was taking his leave for he and the men with him were hungry and eager for the meager meal waiting for them in camp.

Impressed by their politeness, the banker requested Butler and his men allow his wife to fix them dinner. At first they refused not wanting to impose. But the banker insisted. That night hunger got the best of Butler and his men. They left the bank that night with empty pockets and full stomachs.

Source: Paraphrased from "Butler and his cavalry in the War of Secession, 1861-1865" by UR Brooks, 1909.

Link to free e-book: https://archive.org/.../b.../butlerhiscavalry00broorich_djvu.txt

From the Boston Globe

Who would have thought? A demented 21-year-old troll named Dylann Roof, accused of killing nine parishioners at a historic black church, has turned history upside down. Roof's attachment to the Confederate battle flag has set off a dramatic reconsideration of how we remember the Civil War. For example:

Yale University may rename its venerable Calhoun College. Senator John C. Calhoun was the famous white supremacist whom historian Richard Hofstadter memorably called "the Marx of the Master Class." "The finger-in-the-wind" leaders of the Democratic Party are abandoning their tradition of Jefferson-Jackson dinners, rubber chicken meetups named for Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson, great presidents who happened to own slaves.

There are moves afoot in Maryland to take down statues of native son Roger Taney, the chief justice of the Supreme Court who authored the 1857 Dred Scott decision that denied citizenship to black Americans. On the one hand, I celebrate all historical revision. Every body of knowledge — physics, mathematics, medicine — has to be reexamined as often as necessary to stay honest and relevant. History enjoys no special privilege.

Yet I agree with Civil War historian Ernest Furgurson, writing in *The American Scholar*, who compares willy-nilly de-Confederatization in the South to de-Stalinization in the former Soviet Union, or the "destruction of ancient monuments by ISIS and Taliban fanatics. Totalitarian states may decree that the painful past never happened, but any such official effort in our country would be tragic."

The problem with simplifying history to accommodate a set agenda — North good, South bad — is that the facts just won't cooperate. OK Democrats, you want to toss Jefferson and Jackson into the ashcan of history. What about Abraham Lincoln? "I am not, nor ever have been in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and black races," Lincoln famously

declared in an 1858 debate with Stephen Douglas. In that debate, Lincoln added that he didn't want blacks voting, sitting on juries, or marrying white people.

So, Democratic candidates Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton – you support tearing down the Lincoln Memorial, I assume? His words make him sound like a racist on a par with Jefferson and Jackson. What about Roger Taney? Unlike Jackson and Jefferson, he freed his slaves. Inconveniently for the iconoclasts (literally: “those who destroy statues”), Taney declared that “slavery is a blot on our national character, and every real lover of freedom confidently hopes that it will be effectually . . . wiped away.”

At this fraught moment in time, it is received wisdom that the men who fought under the Confederate battle flag were racists battling to preserve slavery. I've recently become reacquainted with Edmund Wilson's 1962 book “Patriotic Gore,” which took a jaundiced view of the jumped-up claims of moral purity on either side of the Mason-Dixon line.

“The institution of slavery,” Wilson wrote, “supplied the militant union North with the rabble-rousing moral issue which is necessary in every modern war to make the conflict appear as a melodrama.” Wilson, channeling economic historian Charles Beard, thought the industrial North simply wanted to annex the agrarian South: “The myth that it was fighting to free the slaves is everywhere except in the South firmly fixed in the American popular mind,” Wilson wrote. “These pseudo-moral issues which aroused such furious hatred were never fundamental for the North,” he added.

I think Wilson would be pilloried for writing those words today. But history is a moving stream, not a stagnant pond of water. Today's certainties are tomorrow's doubts. By all means, rethink the past. But let's not hide from whom we were.

Alex Beam, September 18, 2015

We are the Sons of Confederate Veterans because:

“The blessed and ever-glorious dead are not here to defend their memories from the taint of the reproach of 'rebellion' and 'treason'. Alas! I am alive and here, and am bound at every hazard to declare that these men were no rebels and no traitors . . . that they were pure patriots, loyal citizens, well tried and true soldiers, brave, honest, devoted men, who proved their faith in their principles by the deaths which canonized them immortal heroes and martyrs.”

Henry A Wise

Visit Camp 11 on the World Wide Web.

<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**