



## 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.

On January 17<sup>th</sup> Camp 11 held its annual Lee/Jackson Salute at Confederate Rest in Mobile's Magnolia Cemetery. Once again the good Lord blessed us with excellent weather. The event was well attended and Compatriot Toifel delivered a memorable address. We appreciate all of you who attended the ceremony. Our guests included Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Binion who portray President and Miss Varina Davis. They were very complimentary of our camp's program and our hospitality. It was also good to see our compatriot Shannon Fontaine at the service.

We also want to take a moment to congratulate Camp 11 member Carl Broussard for being selected as the Camp 11 Compatriot of the Year. Good job, Karl.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> several Camp 11 members attended the Blakeley Camp Lee/Jackson Banquet in Foley. Claude Turberville and Dustin Marshall served in the color guard. Alabama Division 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander Jimmy Hill delivered the address for the program. It was a good evening of Confederate fellowship.

On January 31<sup>st</sup> our camp will participate in a Confederate Memorial service at the Bryars Cemetery which is five miles north of Stockton, Alabama. Several Confederate headstones will be dedicated at this service. The event starts at 2pm.

Our next Camp 11 meeting is on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Compatriot Abram Philips will present a program to the camp. We hope to see many of you there.

Please continue with your prayers for Camp 11 and our members.

Best regards,

Terry W. "Beetle" Bailey

Editor, The Admiral's Log

### This Month in the WBTS

January of 1861 was Secession Month. Following South Carolina's lead in December the following states seceded from the Union in January: Mississippi on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Florida on the 10<sup>th</sup>, Alabama on the 11<sup>th</sup>, Georgia on the 19<sup>th</sup>, and Louisiana on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

### A Confederate Birthday

Matthew Fontaine Maury was born in Virginia on January 14, 1806. Commander Maury was known as the "Pathfinder of the Seas." He is also considered to be the father of modern oceanography and naval meteorology.

### A Brief Sketch of the Work of

Matthew Fontaine Maury

by Richard Launcelot Maury

1915 AD

## INTRODUCTION

WHEN I took charge of the Georgia Room, in the Confederate Museum, in Richmond, Virginia in 1897, I found among the De Renne collection an engraving of the pleasant, intellectual face of Commodore Matthew Fontaine Maury, so I went to his son, Colonel Richard L. Maury, who had been with his father in all his work here, and urged him to write the history of it, while memory, papers and books could be referred to; this carefully written, accurate paper was the result.

At one time, when Commodore Maury was very sick, he asked one of his daughters to get the Bible and read to him. She chose Psalm 8, the eighth verse of which speaks of "whatsoever walketh through the paths of the sea," he repeated "the paths of the sea, the paths of the sea, if God says the paths of the sea, they are there, and if I ever get out of this bed I will find them."

He did begin his deep sea soundings as soon as he was strong enough, and found that two ridges extended from the New York coast to England, so he made charts for ships to sail over one path to England and return over the other.

The proceeds from the sale of this little pamphlet will be used as the beginning of a fund for the erection of a monument to Commodore Maury in Richmond.

KATHERINE C. STILES.

## Commemorating and Celebrating Generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson

### Jackson Earns Acclaim from the Valley Campaign

After Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's Valley Campaign in the spring of 1862:

"Jackson was suddenly famous. In spite of his heroics at Manassas, he had until late May 1862 been little more than a catchy nickname operating in the back alleys of Virginia. His troubled winter march on Romney was not much of a credential, nor was his defeat at Kernstown, in spite of its political and military repercussions. McDowell was small-scale dustup on a mountain in part of the country few had ever heard of. Jackson's victory at Winchester changed all that. His back-to-back victories over two Union armies two weeks later confirmed--if anyone needed more proof--that he hadn't just been lucky. Now, a little more than a month after his first win at McDowell, his name was pulsing through the nation's arteries as the greatest new military genius of the South.....with less than 17,000 troops [and sometimes far less], Jackson had taken on and routed 52,000 troops in three Union armies. He had inflicted 4,600 casualties [killed, wounded, or captured], seized 9,000 small arms and a vast trove of Union supplies, and had kept more than 40,000 Federal troops from joining McClellan in front of Richmond. In five battles and many smaller engagements from March 23 to June 9, he had marched his men 646 miles, knocked the entire Union war plan in the eastern theater off balance, and had done it at the cost of 2,750 men. In the late spring of that year he was very likely the most famous soldier in the world."

Source: Rebel Yell the Violence, Passion, and Redemption of Stonewall Jackson by S. C. Gwynne {pg. 331}

### General Robert E. Lee Quotes

"We made a great mistake in the beginning of our struggle, and I fear, in spite of all we can do, it will prove to be a fatal mistake. We appointed all our worst generals to command our armies, and all our best generals to edit the newspapers."

"The trite saying that honesty is the best policy has met with just criticism that honesty is not policy. The real honest man is honest from conviction of what is right, not from policy."

"In all my perplexities and distresses, the Bible has never failed me light and strength."

“Obedience to lawful authority is the foundation of manly character.”

“There is scarcely anything that is right that we cannot accomplish by labor and perseverance. But the first must be earnest and the second unremitting.”

“To be a good soldier you must love the Army. To be a good commander, you must be willing to order the death of the thing you love.”

“Strike the tent.”

### A Letter To Grandfather

I am writing to beg your forgiveness. I have done a terrible thing. I had no intention of letting these matters get out of hand, but they did. I pray that you will forgive me and ask the Lord for guidance in these troubling times.

See, back only four or five years ago, there was still support for things Confederate and for the fond memory of men like you. There were organizations in place to defend your good name and remember the deeds you had done, and to honor the sacrifices you made. But I like others failed to support them and now it is too late.

Now the Battle Flag is outlawed in public. You can not find one in school or town. There are no Southern Crosses flying on any flag poles anymore. I could remember a few years ago they were flying on city, county, and state government buildings. Very few even dare to keep them at home for fear of losing their job or being arrested. We now have a state-approved flag which is more universal. All flags for states who were once proud of their Confederate heritage have been changed.

They have renamed all the streets, counties, buildings, and schools that once honored the brave men of the CSA with names of contemporary leaders. The monuments that once graced the courthouse lawns and parks have been taken to the museum. In fact, there is only a small part of the museum now dedicated to the Confederate sacrifice. It is not a positive exhibit. Your men in gray are labeled as criminals and traitors.

There are no more references to Confederate veterans in the local cemetery. The stones have been modified to erase any commentary of that war service. As I mentioned before, because of the ban on the Southern Cross, we can no longer place the dear flag on your final resting place.

The school kids can't play Dixie in the band any more. The school board says it is racist. I guess we have to live that because they don't know the words anyway. We are having a tougher time even finding things about the War unless they are published in the North. Our county library had to remove all the Southern history and Southern culture books because they were judged as harmful to children. The textbooks that are in the schools pretty much defame you and all the veterans for being hateful, nasty Rebels.

I am sorry for letting things get the way they are. The politically correct revisionists are a carry-over from the carpetbaggers and scalawags of your time. They have most of the country now believing the lies of the North. I could have done more, but I really didn't think my inaction would allow this to happen.

See, Grandfather, I could have flown the Flag at home. I could have gotten more involved in the heritage organizations. I could have marched in parades, worked as a volunteer in schools, contributed a few hours and a few dollars when an SCV/CSA project was promoted, but I didn't. I should have checked on the kids' textbooks every year and offered corrections to the errors. I should have stood up against the lies. I could have written letters or spoken to politicians. I should have gotten my family, friends, and neighbors involved. Every time some group called the Confederates racists or traitors, I should have stood up and done something. I did not and I failed you.

I was too busy. I did not think my participation really was important. I did not like some of the

men who were leading us. I now know that I was wrong. It is all gone because of my sloth, apathy, uncooperativeness, and unwillingness to give a little time or money for the Cause.

I should have thought about all your sacrifice and the sacrifice of thousands of other Confederate veterans. I lost focus of what y'all gave for the Cause, instead of thinking selfishly, only of myself. Had I done something four years ago before things really got bad, there would still be honor for you and myself. Now there is nothing left of the Confederacy or your good name. I fumbled that away and not only for you and me, but for the generations to come.

I hope that when I leave this earth and we see each other face-to-face, you will have some pity on me and forgive me for the awful job I did as a Son of a Confederate Veteran.

How many of us will have to sign a letter like this? Don't be a signer. Be a doer. Take action now. [Source: John Griffin, The Carolina Confederate, January/February 2000]

Some Alabama Trivia

"The proximity of Collins's desertion to the passage of the "Twenty Nigger Law" lends considerable credibility to the claim that passage of that law influenced his decision to leave the army. It is probably not true, however, that Collins was the inventor of the refrain "a rich man's war and a poor man's fight." According to Walter Lynwood Fleming that complaint originated with the Tories of northern Alabama."

Source: Legend of the Free State of Jones by Rudy H. Leverett, page 57

Visit Camp 11 on the World Wide Web.

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

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

Camp minutes are available upon request. Thank you.

*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**