



DCV TODAY

Descendants of Confederate Veterans

A Texas Based Association, with groups meeting near your location.

JULY 2012

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Ladies and Gentlemen of the DCV,

It is entirely fitting that I use this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and pleasant Independence Day and pay respect to the United States of America by saying, "Happy Birthday America!" It is also appropriate to remind everyone of the freedoms we enjoy as Americans and to urge each of us to reflect on how many of those freedoms were purchased by the sacrifices of our fellow Americans through our history. Never let us fail to be thankful for those sacrifices and never let us take any of what we have for granted.

That said, as a member of a unique organization such as ours, I believe it is entirely appropriate to remember the first week of July of 1863, and how that particular time impacts upon us. How can the Southern mind not turn to the earth shattering events of that time long past? Pickett's Charge, Vicksburg, and many other pivotal events which define the Fourth of July holiday. The great Southern writer, William Faulkner, described it so well when it comes to Gettysburg.

Pickett's Charge, described here, commenced at approximately 2:30 p.m. on July 3, 1863, at the Battle of Gettysburg. William Faulkner writes in his 1948 novel "Intruder in the Dust":

"For every Southern boy fourteen years old, not once but whenever he wants it, there is the instant when it's still not yet two o'clock on that July afternoon in 1863, the brigades are in position

behind the rail fence, the guns are laid and ready in the woods and the furred flags are already loosened to break out and Pickett himself with his long oiled ringlets and his hat in one hand probably and his sword in the other looking up the hill waiting for Longstreet to give the word and it's all in the balance, it hasn't happened yet, it hasn't even begun yet, it not only hasn't begun yet but there is still time for it not to begin against that position and those circumstances which made more men than Garnett and Kemper and Armstead and Wilcox look grave yet it's going to begin, we all know that, we have come too far with too much at stake and that moment doesn't need even a fourteen-year-old boy to think This time. Maybe this time with all this much to lose and all this much to gain: Pennsylvania, Maryland, the world, the golden dome of Washington itself to crown with desperate and unbelievable victory the desperate gamble, the cast made two years ago...."

I cannot speak for the women, but what boy growing up in the South has not gone to that place in his mind many times? As Faulkner said, 'not once but whenever he wants it'. I confess I am still a boy at heart and I admit it, I do go there from time to time. If you go there also you may find me, hopeful, eager, ready to emerge from the woods.

With Kindest Regards and Best Wishes,

J.D.Boydston ,
President, Board of Directors
Descendants of Confederate Veterans of Texas

EDITORS MUSINGS

Sorry this is a little late but since the first of June have been in hospital two times and still not feelin' well. They ran every kind of test on me known to man with the exception of using a flashlight up my rear end to see if my eyeballs glowed.

Remember that there is a fire danger when playing with the fireworks this Wed., and remember what we are celebrating and why.

AUSTIN CHAPTER EVENT.

The New hope Manor Nursing Home in Cedar Park, Tx., had an event hosted by Terry Ayers and Gillis Bartles. This was put on basically for the fathers for Fathers Day. However, all were invited included families and all had a great time.....including Terry and Gil.

The Home staff said that this was the best Fathers Day turn out they have ever had, particularly due to a pre-party program. From the picture sent, it looks like they had a great time and did an outstanding job. GOOD WORK FELLAS.

**REMEMBER THE
BOARD MEETING THE
FIRST WEEK END
OF AUGUST**



Gil and Terry at the nursing home and their display.



**TIME AND PLACE TO BE SENT
PRIOR TO MEETING. BUT KEEP
THAT DATE OPEN**

More Gum Springs Pics



Mark Appleton, DCV Chapter President, and Liz Hedges, DCV member



DCV Member Amy Hilburn leading the pledges at dedication

MITTIE STEPHENS

Those of you that were at the convention in Jefferson will know something about this, but I thought the full story should be told.

The Mittie Stephens was built in Madison, Ind., as a Federal troop ship in 1862. During the war it was used to carry dispatches, troops, and supplies in the Red River campaign. After the war, it was converted to a passenger and cargo vessel that operated between New Orleans, Shreve's Port Landing and Moore's Landing La., and Jefferson, Tx.

On Feb. 11, 1869, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the Mittie Stephens left Shreve's Port chartered by John K. Rives. She was carrying passengers and a government consignment of hay, gun powder and a \$100,000 payroll for troops stationed in Jefferson. Her course was upriver to Twelve Mile Bayou into Ferry Lake, (now Caddo Lake), stopping at Moore's Port on her way to Jefferson.

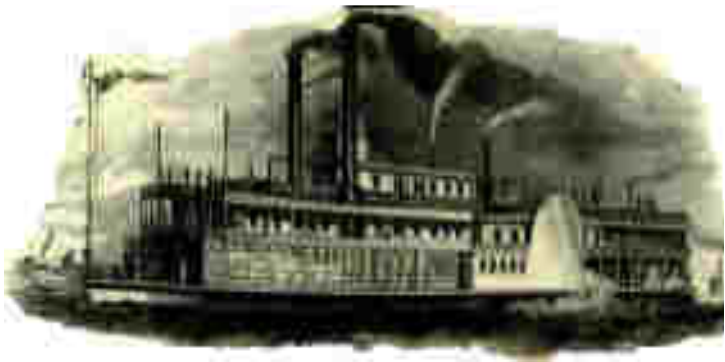
After leaving Moore's Port approaching Swanson's Landing around midnight, a crewman noticed smoke rising from some hay. The alarm was given and the crew headed the vessel to the nearest shore. The fire spread rapidly and the passengers were trapped. A lifeboat was launched but became overloaded and overturned. Most of those aboard drowned. The passengers

remaining aboard had no choice but to jump overboard into the chilly waters or be burned. More than 60 people lost their lives in the well documented scene.

For many years the hull of the Mittie Stephens could be seen lying in the mud. Some items were salvaged from the wreckage, with the most valuable being the ships bell, which can be seen at the Jefferson Museum.

What ever happened to the \$100,000.....I don't know, but probably recovered.

Thanks to John Barrett for the article on the Mittie Stephens



The Mittie Stephens with steam up.

MORE DUMB HEADLINES

HOSPITALS SUED BY 7 FOOT DOCTORS

AND

**NEW STUDY OF OBESITY LOOKS FOR
LARGER TEST GROUP**

PACIFIC MOH WINNERS

Pvt . Joseph Wm. Ozbourn

Marianas, July 30, 1944

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty as a Browning Automatic Rifleman serving with the 1st Btn, 23 Marines, 4th Div, during the battle for enemy Japanese-held Islands, 30 July, 1944.

As a member of a platoon assigned the mission of clearing the remaining Japanese troops from dugouts and pillboxes along a tree line, Pvt. Ozbourn, flanked by two men on either side, was moving forward to throw an armed hand grenade into a dugout when a terrific blast from the entrance severely wounded the four men and himself. Unable to throw the grenade into the dugout and with no place to hurl it without injuring the other men, Pvt. Ozbourn unhesitatingly grasped it close to his body, sacrificing his own life to absorb the full impact of the explosion, but saving his comrades. His great personal valor and unwavering loyalty reflects the highest credit upon Pvt. Ozbourn and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

BARNEY HILBURN

EDITOR (OF SORTS)