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DCV TODAY

Descendants of Confederate Veterans

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

MAY, 2012

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

This past month has seen a marked increase in CW related activity along with the warming weather. The Mansfield/Pleasant Hill re-enactment enjoyed perfect weather and the crowds were noticeably larger than had been in recent years. One very inspirational aspect of the festivities was the large number of young people participating in the reenactment. The number of those under 25 appeared to be higher than usual – a positive sign for the future. When we see young people taking part, we are seeing the future. While walking around the reenactment, it occurred to me, there could be a DCV booth on the grounds. I am going to contact the battlefield organizers about the

particulars involved for next year's battle. It could be something we in the DCV would be interested in. Two years from now is the sesquicentennial and there should be larger crowds.

The ET Chapter completed its spring excursion to the Vicksburg area, specifically Champion Hill battle site. Highly informative and some surprises.

I received a personal invitation from the Wm. White family to participate in a dedication at Prichett, Tx., This was an scv event, but since I was personally invited, I carried the Bonnie Blue in the honor guard.

We are looking forward with great anticipation to the DCV marker dedication on June 9 at the Gum Springs Cemetery in Longview. More to come as time draws nearer.

With best wishes and kindest regards to all

J.D. Boydston

President, Board of Directors



J.D In new uniform at dedication

EDITORS MUSINGS

Well it looks like summer is upon us after a somewhat warm winter. Still don't know what happened to spring!

The East Texas chapter had its bi-annual trip, this time to Vicksburg and

Champion Hill. Note write-up following.

Also, the ET Chapter is in the process of setting the DCV marker at the Gum Springs Cemetery. We are starting our search for another location for another marker. When you think of it, there are a plethora of places, but to find one that has a pretty good traffic flow is fairly hard.

PACIFIC MOH RECIPIANTS

Sgt Thomas A. Baker, Saipan, 7-7-44

When his entire company was held up by fire from automatic weapons and small arms fire from strongly fortified enemy positions that commanded the view of the company, Sgt. (then Pvt) Baker voluntarily took a bazooka and dashed alone to within 100 yards of the enemy. Through heavy rifle and machinegun fire that was directed at him by the enemy, he knocked out the strong point, enabling his company to assault the ridge. Some days later while his company advanced across the open field flanked with obstructions, and places of concealment for the enemy, Sgt Baker again voluntarily took up a position in the rear to protect the company

against surprise attack and came upon two heavily fortified enemy pockets manned by two officers and 10 enlisted men which had been bypassed. Without regard for such superior numbers, he unhesitatingly attacked and killed all of them. Five hundred yards further, he discovered 6 men of the enemy who had concealed themselves behind our lines and destroyed all of them. On July 7, 1944, the perimeter of which Sgt Baker was a part was attacked from three sides by from 3,000 to 5,000 Japanese. During the early stages of this attack, Sgt Baker was seriously wounded but he insisted on staying in the line and fired at the enemy at ranges sometimes as close as 5 yards until his ammunition ran out. Without ammunition and with his own weapon battered to uselessness from hand-to-hand combat, he was carried 50 yards to the rear by a comrade, who was then himself wounded. At this point Sgt Baker refused to be moved any farther stating that he preferred to be left to die rather than risk the lives of any more of his friends. A short time later, at his request, he was placed in a sitting position against a small tree. Another comrade, withdrawing,

offered assistance. Sgt Baker refused, insisting he be left alone and be given a soldiers pistol with its remaining 8 rounds of ammunition. When last seen alive, Sgt Baker was propped against a tree, pistol in hand calmly facing the foe. Later, Sgt Bakers body was found in the same position, gun empty, with 8 Japanese lying dead before him. His deeds were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S Army.

CHAMPION HILL

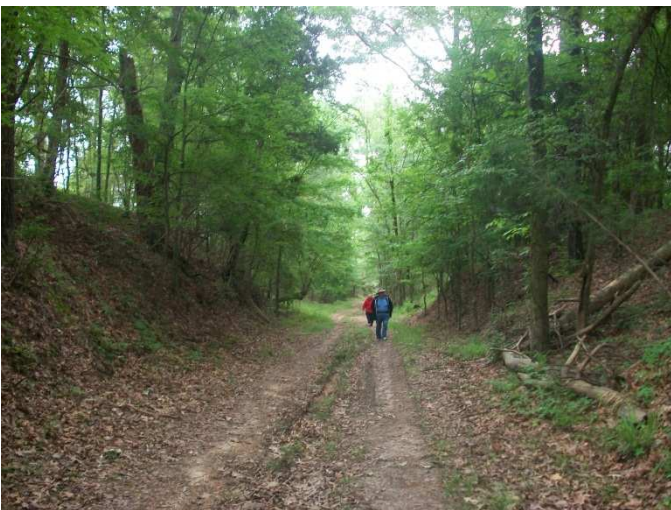
Below are the two markers we saw at the Campion Hill battle site near Vicksburg.



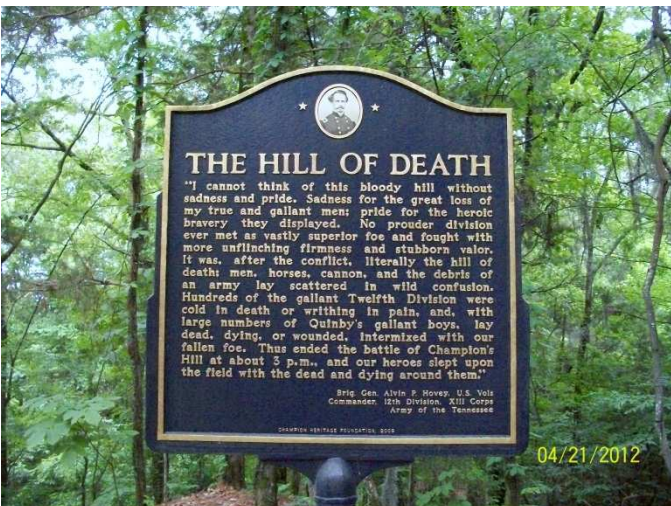
National Historical marker at the "road" leading to Champion Hill. All very interesting especially with Sid Champion leading the way.



Main entrance to Champion Hill



The Hedges traipsing up the hill on an original road.



These are the only two markers we saw. The Hill of Death Marker is at the top of the hill and is rarely seen. Too bad. The top marker is at the road leading up the hill.

What would have been the result if Grant had been repulsed at Champion Hill? An interesting question. He would have withdrawn back up the river. There would have been no siege of Vicksburg. The Mississippi would have remained open for CSA troops and the war might have had a different result.

The ET Chapter had the opportunity to walk up “the hill” with Sid Champion. We were honored that he took the time to let us go on his property and show us some of the high points of the battle. The hill is much the same as it was 150+ years ago. Deep cut ravines and heavy timber were the norm. I kept thinking about those poor guys trying to fight in that terrain.

At the crest of the hill, there is a historical marker placed several years ago. It pretty well said what took place there and the results thereof.

Sid said that there were plans for a “pretty big deal” next year for the anniversary of the fight.

It was a pretty tough climb, but I made it with the help of my “Moses Stick” I found on the way.



Carl, Terry. Sid Champion, J.D., and Barn (with the Moses Stick) at the top of the hill.

Sid said he was constantly making rounds of the hill and find where trespassers have been digging holes, etc., looking for the many relics that are still there.

The trip is one of two the ET Chapter makes every year. Next will be Angels on the Bluff in Natchez, MS., in November.

CEDAR PARK NEWS

Thursday 4-12-12 by Mike Parker

“A month to the day after her death, Janet Bartles received a posthumous tribute from the city she served for so many years.

The Cedar Park City Council unanimously approved renaming Creekside Park to Janet Bartles Park during its regular meeting tonight. Council members commented on Bartles dedicated service to the community prior to the vote. Council member Mitch Fuller called Bartles an “extraordinary lady”.

“I think it’s a wonderful honor,” he said of renaming the park.

Bartles served on the Cedar Park City Council from 1995 to 2002 and joined the parks board in 2006. Before the establishment of Cedar Park, she served on the Buttercup Creek Municipal Utility District.

Mayor Pro Tem Lowell Moore requested the item on the council agenda, and served for a period of time on the council with Bartles. He commended Bartles fiscal

responsibility and how she helped mold the city into what it is today.

The 8.5 acre park is located toward the center of the city in the Buttercup Creek Neighborhood”

Janet Bartles was the wife of the Capitol Chapter Chaplain Gillis Bartles.

Thanks to Terry Ayers for this information

RON WILSON AGAIN

For those interested in the on going Ron Wilson affair in S. C. You may go to the newspaper:

**INDEPENDENT
MAIL.COM/ANDERSON, SOUTH
CAROLINA**

The latest on Ronnie is that he is squirming and will enter a guilty plea on a Ponzi scheme. Couldn't happen to a nicer guy.

MORE CHAMPION HILL PICS as well as a few of the Coker House.



The Coker house built 1838 (?). In progress of being restored. Several miles from the hill.



Location, not far from Coker house where Gen Tilghman was killed from a canon shot from the Coker House front lawn



Vicksburg looking toward Shirley House after all trees cut down

The Vicksburg Battle Park has done a superb job in cleaning the park of unwanted trees, brush, etc., making it more like it was at the siege.

Barney Hilburn

Editor (of sorts)