



Contributions to this column are requested from Confederate veterans and other persons familiar with the history of the War Between the States. Narratives of particular engagements and personal adventures are especially desired. All contributions should be sent to the Editor of the Confederate Column, Times-Dispatch, Richmond, Va.

STRATEGY AND VALOR AT SABINE PASS

Daring Deeds of Dowling's Men--Forty-Two Confederate Irishmen Defeat Four Gunboats and Fifteen Thousand Men.

(The following article by Dr. R. J. Massey, of Georgia, was supplied by B. J. Rogers, formerly of Mecklenburg county, an inmate of the Soldiers Home, who was a member of Smith's Battalion of Heavy Artillery, Mahone's Division, A. P. Hill's Corps, A. N. V. He surrendered at Appomattox.)

Mr. Josiah Davis, a double veteran, not only a brave old ex-Confederate, but a Mexican War veteran, followed the fortunes of General Bedford N. Forrest, the famous Confederate officer and raider during the late Civil War. Nothing delights this good old man more than to detail to a crowd of willing listeners some of the many exploits of the "Wizard of the Saddle," as Forrest was fondly called by his many admirers.

During the spring of 1862, it was the plan of some of the leading officers of the Cumberland army to send a raid of picked cavalry into Georgia for the purpose of tapping or destroying a part of the Western and Atlantic Railroad between Chattanooga and Atlanta. As far as possible, extend operations as far South as Atlanta. If the reader will remember, Stoneman had attempted such a thing the year before, and Andrews and his chosen band came near accomplishing as much in his celebrated attempt in stealing the Great Eastern. Both of these expeditions, however, failed. But this idea seemed to be paramount among the officers, and it is said that General Garfield most heartily endorsed and urged before the proper authorities, so that at last Colonel G. W. Smith, a brave and fearless Federal officer, was chosen and given command of several thousand picked men from the Army of Tennessee for this purpose.

These men were brought from Nashville down the river, and landed at East Point, in Mississippi, near the western border of the State of Alabama, and were hurried across the upper part of Alabama, through territory where Union sympathizers were many, and where there were no railroads or telegraphs, over Sand Mountain to the Georgia line as fast as they could travel, and were known, of course, this route became known to the Confederate officers of the Army of Tennessee, and as General Forrest had so recently distinguished himself in flanking and completely routing the Federal cavalry near General Smith and his command, he was ordered to strike into Memphis ahead of him, and only about 2,000 men in broad daylight, he was chosen to follow Straight and his men and intercept them at all hazards.

At the roar of the cannon an explosion is heard like a mighty moan, and dies away in a full shriek. There is a lull in the firing. The smoke lifts for a moment, when the Sachem is seen to lurch forward and then fall heavily upon the waters as a thing without life. Clouds of steam and smoke are rising from her funnels. Then the Arizona has crunched through her side and exploded her boilers. A white flag is flying from her masthead, and she seems to be in great distress.

All of the guns of the fort were now turned on the Clifton, and every shot took effect, and in less than half an hour the Arizona had been hauled down her colors. Then the Arizona came in for a pounding. She was already crippled and backing away out of range of the guns. To keep from sinking, she was seen to throw overboard horses, provisions and everything that would lighten her. The poor horses had halter and collar, and their forefeet and sank immediately. Some of the bacon and flour drifted ashore, where it was afterwards picked up for use at the fort.

The battle was over. The troop ships steamed away and Texas was saved from the hands of the Federalists. The Texans were astonished at the results of their victory. They had captured two gunboats and crippled a third; taken 350 prisoners, thirteen cannons, many small arms and large quantities of ammunition and provisions. They were told that three officers and ninety-four men were killed. The fort lost not a man.

The Sachem was towed to the wharf, but the Clifton had run aground, and could not be moved. The prisoners from both boats were taken to the fort. Captain Crocker, of the Clifton, was among the prisoners. Mounted on the earthworks he asked for the commanding officer. Begrimed with powder and covered with dust, Lieutenant Dowling presented himself. The Federal officer could hardly believe his eyes. This dirty little boy his countrymen call a "fellow" "come over and take dinner with us." "Come over and take dinner with us." "There was no reply from the fort, and it gave no sign of life. One might have supposed that the soldiers had lost hope and fled.

gunners, their fingers nervously clutching at the fuse, the brave Davis Guards impatiently await the order to return the gunboats' fire.

"Wait a little while, boys; just a little longer," said Lieutenant Dowling, his smiling blue eyes fixed upon the advancing gunboats and a lighted fuse in his hand. "I'll give you the signal in a moment. You may fire when you hear my gun."

Suddenly a sheet of flame leaps from the fort. In thundering tones the lieutenant's gun speaks out and a ball falls hissing into the water near the Arizona.

"Every man to his gun. No. 1, take aim, fire!" then, "Load and fire at will," said Dowling, speaking rapidly, his face all aglow with the ardor of battle. They needed no second bidding. Each man seized his gun with a will. Each knew his place and was expected of him. There was little excitement and no fear. All kept perfectly cool and worked their guns as fast as human hands could work. They did not even take time to swab the guns, which became so hot that the hand could not be laid on them comfortably till 3 o'clock.

And now the light waxed fast and furious. Gun answered gun in one continuous roar. Boats and fort seemed wrapped in fire. Shells plowed their way through the fort, tearing up the earth and filling the air with dust. One ball from the ship struck the wheel of a gun carriage in the fort, knocking out one of the spokes. The piece hit the man who was working the gun, wounding him slightly. He dropped and picked up the spoke, and, holding the entire piece, said with a laugh: "Doctor, the Yanks are fighting too familiar." No other man in the fort was hurt.

The boats fared worse. Their masts were shot away, their ropes were cut, and great holes were torn in their sides. If in horror of the fort, that was going on, the battle smoke, like a great white curtain, fell upon the scene and hid the combatants from each other.

When the dispatch was handed to Dowling, he called his men together and said: "Men, in a few short, earnest words, he spoke of what would happen should they retreat—Texas at the mercy of the invader; her towns burned; her fields laid waste; her men imprisoned; her women and children helpless at the feet of the enemy; homeless and starving. 'We can scarcely hope to win,' he continued, 'but we will give them such a check that they'll think twice before going any further. What do you say, men? Shall we retreat, or shall we stay and fight it out?'"

"No, no, no!" "Fight it out," shouted the men in a chorus. "Then look to your guns," said Dowling. "See that everything is ready. The attack may begin at any moment."

FIFTY YEARS AGO

September 25—Engagement at Chapmanville, W. Va.
September 26—Battle of Lucas Bend, Ky.
September 27—Battle of Shanghai, Mo.

rest and his officers and men for valuable services in the field and the pursuit and capture of the largely superior "aces near Home."

To "Brave Dick Dowling," of Texas, belongs the honor of achieving, during the late Civil War the next thing at all comparable to the above. Happening to meet one of the "forty-two Irishmen" spoken of in Littlejohn's "Texas History Stories," I gather the following:

"Sabine Pass was one of the ports or doors through which the Confederacy, as the Southern States were called, sent its cotton to Europe and brought in supplies of arms and ammunition. It was very important to the South that the door should be kept open. The North knew this, and determined to close it, as she had done other ports. Gunboats were stationed at the mouth of the pass to prevent ships from going in or out.

Fort Griffin, as the earthworks was called, consisted of light guns and was garrisoned by the Davis Guards, a company of Irishmen from Houston. All told, there were forty-three men in the fort. Captain F. H. Odium at Sabine Pass was in command. Lieutenant Richard W. Dowling, or "Dick Dowling," as he was called, was in command. He was scarcely twenty-two years of age, and looked a mere boy. Dr. George H. Bailey was post surgeon, and Lieutenant N. H. Smith, engineer.

About midnight on the 25th of September, 1862, General Franklin's army of invasion appeared before Fort Griffin. It consisted of five gunboats, twenty-two troop ships and 15,000 soldiers.

"From Sabine Pass Captain Odium sent a message to General Magruder, telling him of the arrival of the fleet and asking what should be done. General Magruder replied that he thought it would be useless to try to hold the fort against such odds; that it would be better to spike the guns, blow up the fort, and retreat; but that he would make the matter the subject of a council of war with the officers and Lieutenant Dowling."

It is decidedly interesting to hear Veteran Davis tell how they caught up with Straight, after traveling 125 miles in five days, sometimes having nothing to eat for several days, and on several occasions actually eating the corn that his horse left from his scant meal.

It rained and it rained—mud and water everywhere. Everything was so wet that for three days General Forrest's standing order was "Keep your cartridges dry, boys. Keep your cartridges dry, if everything else gets wet."

When near the Georgia side of Sand Mountain Forrest learned that General Straight was only a few miles ahead of him, but was making the best possible time his already tired army could make. Forrest's men were tired, too; had not had a good sleep in four or five days. Whenever they would stop for a few minutes the boys would fall fast asleep and had to be waked up. But Forrest never slept. He was wide awake all the time. During the whole trip over the mountain Forrest was known not to have slept a wink.

When closing on Straight they came to a swollen stream over which Straight and his men had just crossed before the bridge was swept off. A brave Alabama girl, Miss Emma Samsom, of original Georgia stock, volunteered her services to pilot General Forrest to a place several miles distant, where he and his men could be with safety across. Forrest accepted her kind offer, and took Miss Samsom up behind him, and by that means was enabled to continue his pursuit of the Federal officer and his command. General Forrest arranged for the safe return of Miss Samsom, and gave her a note of thanks for her kindness, bravery and patriotism, which to her last day Miss Samsom always took great pride in exhibiting to her friends.

After coming up with General Straight and harassing him in a general running fight for two days, he sent a flag of truce, demanding an unconditional surrender, giving one hour for a decision. At the same time Forrest had stationed his men at various points in a thick woods, with instructions to act as though they were officers giving commands to various squads of men under them. In order that when Forrest should see the flag of truce, he would be in the act of surrounding him. Seeing no chance of escape, Straight surrendered 2,500 picked men to Forrest, who had less than 400 all told.

During the day Straight asked Forrest where his army was, and it is said that when Forrest showed him the little squad Straight cried bitterly when he learned that he had surrendered his army to a squad of men scarcely large enough to guard them.

here in 1822 from North Carolina when Winchester was composed of two log cabins. He was the father of six sons, one of whom is "Uncle Tommy" Moorman of this city, aged eighty-four.

Ann Eliza married Isaiah F. Watts, and had Inez, who married E. F. Tibbitt, and had Frederick and David.

Grace Watts married Emerson Addison, and had Constance.

Thomas M. married Blanche Harris, and had Raymond.

Shelly Diggs Watts married Carrie Butler.

Francis Clarke Diggs married Emma Mendall, and had Orpheus, Adonia (twins), Sylvia, Olive, Thomas E., William Nelson and Harold.

Fanny Diggs, daughter of William and Fanny Diggs, married Jesse Way, and had Susannah, who married Thomas W., and had William Diggs, Frank, Abbe, Lincoln, Emma, Matthew, Frank, Thomas J. and Edward.

William Diggs Kizer married Louisa Dana.

Emma M. married John E. O'Harra, and had Florence.

Allice M. Kizer married William Marston Ross, and had Agnes.

Frank M. married Canada, and had Carleton Thomas.

Thomas J. married Margaret Monks. The first married ——— and had Homer Thomas and Beatrice.

Ann Diggs, daughter of William and Fanny Diggs, married Henry Moorman, and had Rebecca and Caroline.

Brown, Fountain City, Ind.

Margery Diggs, daughter of William and Fanny Diggs, married Solomon Wright, and had Washington, Hannah, Mary, William, Lydia, Rachael, John and Fanny.

Washington Wright married Hannah Jane Thornburg, and had Harvey Clifford, John Wesley, Elma, McClanahan, Phoebe, Cora and Pearl.

Hannah married Elisha Garrott, and had ——— and Lillie.

Hannah married Henry C. Thornburg (second husband), and had Henry C. and Jennie.

Mary Wright married John W. Clayton, and had one adopted child, Lula, who married Edwin S. Jaqua, and had ———.

William Wright married Rebecca Ann Thornburg, and had Rosetta, Solomon, Raleigh, Lizzie, Otto, Edward, Noah and Bertha.

John Wright married Philip K. Dick.

John M. Wright married Lydia A. Jackson, and had Eva, Ernest, Maude, Nancy, Gail and Raymond.

Fanny Wright married Robert S. Taylor, and had Frank B., who married ———.

Mark Diggs, son of William and Fanny Diggs, married Susannah Way.

Armsbee Diggs, son of William and Fanny Diggs, married Mary Way, and had ———, Patience, Precilla, Jesse W., John W., Rachael, William, Matthew W., Fanny, Washington, Hannah and Littleberry.

Henry Diggs married Nancy Edwards, and had ———.

Rebecca Diggs married John Leake, and had Mary E., who married Charles Rogers; Nancy, who married Alonzo Dynes, and had Walton L. and ———.

Precilla, who married Jesse Hill, and Hannah Leake, who married William P. Rankin.

Precilla Diggs married Stephen Moorman, and had Alfred, Mariah, Mary Flood, who had ———, Lucy, who married ———, Haines, and Henry H., who married Julia Bowman, and had Cephael and ———.

Jesse W. Diggs married Julia Hobbek, and had Frank, who married Elizabeth Morrison, and had John, Florence, ———, Alice, Ettie, Elma, Eva and Daniel E., who married ———.

John W. Diggs married Elizabeth Helms, and had George Sanford Diggs, who married ———, and had Earl Diggs, who married ———, and Charles C., who married Louie Holderman, and had John Diggs, Edward P., John W., Harter, and had Max and Madge Diggs.

William Way married Penelope Verbin, and had William John (1), Mary, John, and ———.

John W. Diggs (2) married Mary Long, and had William (2), Sarah, Elizabeth, John, Paul, Seth and Annie.

John Way (1) married Abigail Starbuck Howes, lived, and children born in Nantucket, Mass.

William W. Diggs (3) married Abigail Oshorn in Guilford county, N. C., in 1776, and had John (infant died), John (3), Mary, Matthew, who married a Diggs, Paul, Hannah, Lydia (married Littleberry Diggs), and Henry (3), who lived in "Deauty Spot", N. C., on the Big Flat, near ———.

John Way (3) married Patience Greene, and had Jesse, who married Fanny Diggs, Mary (married Armsbee Diggs), Robert (4), Matthew and Rachael.

Marshall Diggs married Judith Hiley, and had Rebecca, Rebecca Diggs, married John Moorman, and had Ann; Ann Moorman married George F. Wilson, and had Judith; Robert Way (4) married Judith Wilson, and had William Thompson, John Milton, Starling John W., Mosselene and Adeluca (Miss Lou Way), of Winchester, Va.

Andrew Diggs (5) married Andrew Diltz, and had Annie Laurie, of Washington, D. C.

William Diggs, an oysterman of Mathews county, Va., who had Rev. Thomas Diggs, a Methodist minister, and had Thomas William, of Fenton, Va., a Confederate soldier; J. Seiden, of Lynchburg, Va., a lawyer; Charles D., of Cumberland C. H. Va. (Children of first wife).

Hon. Edward E., attorney, Childress, Texas; Thomas C., Richmond, Va.; and ———, Richmond, Va.; Francis E., Richmond, Va.; Timothy Lloyd, Richmond, Va.; Augustus Percy, Richmond, Va.; Mabel F., Richmond, Va. (Children of second wife, who still lives at Richmond, Va., aged seventy-four).

John W. Diggs, of Norfolk (a hardware merchant) died 1860, aged fifty-two years, formerly of Mathews county, Va., married Frances Rudd, and had Benjamin, Emma J., William Walter, all deceased. Amanda, Christopher C. (1), Fannie O., Charles Hathaway, and ———, all deceased.

Christopher C. (2) married Carrie Brownell, and had Lola B., and resided at Portsmouth, Va.

Charles Hathaway Diggs, of Norfolk, Va., married ———, of Baltimore, Md., and had two children who died in infancy. Mr. Diggs, aged fifty-seven, is a retired merchant of large means and has resided with his wife at Stockley Gardens, Norfolk. He greatly favors the old stock of Diggs in Randolph county. He had an uncle, Cole Diggs, and heard his mother say some years ago that one of three Diggs brothers went to Missouri, near St. Louis, and one to North Carolina, the third remaining in Virginia.

Dudley Diggs, of King and Queen counties, Va., married a Spencer, and had Rev. Isaac Diggs (deceased), a Baptist minister, who had a son Dudley, who has Dudley, E. J. and Ida; a daughter, who has Susan, Mary, Isaac, Reid W., and Elizabeth.

Lucy Elizabeth Diggs, who married Jeffrey, of King and Queen counties, Mary Ellen Diggs, who married Fox, Mathews county.

Marshall Way Diggs married Gertrude C. Strong, and had Harold, deceased, and Maurine L.

Marcy Irene Diggs married Charles

Laurie Diltz, Washington, D. C., who has taken much interest in heraldry and genealogy, wrote me:

"Diggs," of Warburton, were only borne by the branch of the family living at Warburton on the Potomac River, now known as Fort Washington. William Diggs, who was an intimate friend of the Washington family, lived at Warburton.

February 18, 1904, Miss Diltz also wrote as follows: "One of George Washington's most intimate friends was a neighbor named William Diggs, a staunch Catholic gentleman, whose home was Warburton on the Potomac, now known as Fort Washington. When Washington was taken with his death sickness, Martha Washington sent for William Diggs to come to Mount Vernon, and he went and remained until his illustrious friend was buried; having been with him by and with full authority and charge of the funeral. English Surnames, by Hurdley, M. A. Here lives Robert Diggs and William Diggs."

There's no living soul knew which was the bigger. They gave up and lived easy. And now they're both dead and shut their eyes. Foot note: Dingley's History from Marble.

(The editor of this department desires to state that though it is probable that William S. Diggs, who has furnished as much interesting information in regard to the Diggs family, is a descendant of Governor Edward Diggs, there appears to be no proof whatever as to his line of descent.)

I am informed that your paper devotes space to family history in your Sunday edition. I am in search of the record of the marriage of David Owen, son of Walter Owen, who lived in Lunenburg county, and died there in 1765. I believe he was married in Halifax county in 1738 or 1739. No record of his marriage has been found in either Lunenburg or Halifax. Evidently he was married in some county other than the one he is known to have himself resided. I am in hopes to find a family Bible with this and other records.

South Pasadena, Cal. MRS. E. M. Philpott.

Can you give me any information concerning the Philpott family, who came to Virginia in the early days of the republic from England? If not can you refer me to some one who could furnish such information? I ask this in your paper for furnishing a column in your paper for furnishing genealogical information. Inclose stamped envelope, and thank you in advance for any information you may be able to give. R. E. CARTER, JR. Abilene, Texas.

GENEALOGICAL DATA. (From the Records of Chesterfield County.)

Will of Thomas Bott, dated August 6, 1776. Legatees: Grandson, William Bell (including a negro which said William's mother, Ann Bell, had Mary, (William Bott); granddaughter, Mary, (William Bell); daughter, Ann, wife of William Hall; son, Miles Bott; son, William Bott; wife, Ann; son, John Bott.

Will of Peter Baugh, dated October 16, 1773. Legatees: Son, Peter; daughter, Jane Stratton; daughter, Elizabeth Hill; daughter, Frances De Leau; daughter, Sarah Smith; daughter, Ann Folkes; son, James and Burwell Baugh; wife, Elizabeth.

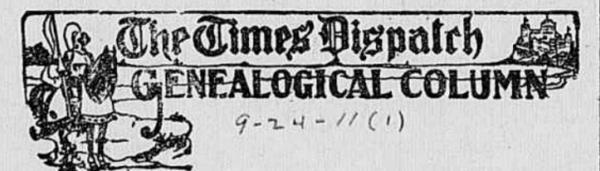
Will of Betty Todd, dated October 30, 1777. Legatees: Grandson, Betty Todd; son, Thomas Todd; daughter, Milly Todd; son, Richard Todd; William Dandridge, of Henrico, and Dr. William McKenzie, of Chesterfield, executor.

Will of Thomas Walthall, dated December 12, 1776. Legatees: Eldest son, Henry, wife, son, More Walthall; daughter, Elizabeth, "children" (whom he does not name).

Will of John Markham, dated October 16, 1779. Legatees: Daughter, Rebecca; son, George; son, Archibald; daughter, Catherine Smith; son, William and Bernard.

Will of James Patteson (not Patterson), dated February 23, 1767 (inventory May, 1767). Legatees: Son, Nelson, lands on Appomattox, and on the James River in Amber, testator purchased of David Patteson; daughter, Sarah Patteson; wife, Mary (probably second wife), wife, Mary; Thomas Prosser and Charles, son of David Patteson, executors.

Will of William Pride, dated October 4, 1743. Legatees: Son, John (land in Amelia); son, Peter (land testator lives on); son, Peter (land testator lives on); daughter, Elizabeth, "children" (whom he does not name).



The following is a copy of the address on back of fold: Rockingham, N. C., 15th March, Mr. Littleberry Diggs, Randolph County, Winchester Post-Office, Indiana.

(Winchester (Indiana) Journal, July 3d, 1896.) A letter written by J. Macalister, of Rockingham, N. C., to Littleberry Diggs, one of the old timers of this county, who served as a judge at the time Peter S. Miller was on the bench, will be read at the Moorman-Diggs reunion to-day. The letter is dated March 18, 1836, and relates to the Diggs interest in one thousand acres of land in Virginia.

Wood. You were kind enough to help a friend of mine on the Leighton Wood genealogy. Now I am going to ask you where to find the family history or anything of record of the early settlers who associated in the purchase of land with the Hinton and Hammonds of Richmond county, Va., also Governor James Wood's genealogy.

In the first part of the seventeenth century James Wood lived in Maryland, where the records show he had ten sons. Two, Joseph and Abraham, I am interested in. There are many Josephs since that time. Abraham we find at Bristol Parish between 1652 and 1700. His daughter married Peter Hinton, and his wife, who lived there Aaron is confused with Abram, but as Aaron never appears again and Abram appears constantly this is conclusive. Miss Jones marries a Newsum and his two daughters married John Darrell, Erasmus Gill and Miss Gill marries a Hinton, and I am astonished they did not claim Edward's part also. Be this as it may, Edward Diggs is entitled to four thousand acres under half pay, supposed to be as much as his land. The State of Virginia has a record in the city of Richmond of the Revolutionary War regular militia. I have a son, James D. Macalister, that goes this spring to King William county and will go through Richmond. I intended for him to search and see where Edward Diggs was and from papers through ——— of Hanover county, and to make some inquiry about the Diggses that lived in that county. When I hear from Walker what proof is necessary to be made I shall endeavor to proceed accordingly. I intend to have a power of attorney from your father, John Diggs, here. And the heirs of Uncle Marshall made to my father-in-law, Marshall Diggs, and you and I am the money to be afterwards divided among the heirs. But I fear we cannot prove the relation between this Edward and your father, and the rest, if anything, can be done. I intend to do my best, as well as I can for myself. I get on the light track I will let you and your father know and will want a power from you to collect yours. Your uncle was in health and all his family and connections getting rich. He owns all the lands about Haley's Ferry, on the west side of the town, for a mile and half up and down, has large crops of corn full at this time, and thirty odd hales of cotton not sold of this crop. He had a letter from Elisha Diggs lately. He is well, only one of his knees is falling. All your connections are well. The small pox is in Marlboro, Tenn., or twelve miles below Rockingham.

Yesterday I was at your uncle's. I shall go over in a few days and read him your letter. I am your sincere friend, J. MACALISTER, March 18, 1836.

The sheet of paper was simply folded in envelope shape, and on the back of the fold was the address. It cost 25 cents postage to send the letter.

DIGGS (Continued.) (Winchester (Indiana) Journal, October 19, 1899.) A day or two ago fourteen people, representing the Moorman-Way and Diggs associations, went out to the old Dunkirk Cemetery, which is situated four miles southeast of this city, to see about keeping it in repair, as it has been sadly neglected for the past sixteen or twenty years. Many of their ancestors are interred there. The graveyard is the site of the first church built in White River Township, known as Dunkirk Friends' Church. The cemetery is situated on the old Tarleton Moorman land. Tarleton Moorman came

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