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Soldier's Home of Louisiana Collection

General Assembly in 1884 appropriated by Act 52, \$10,000 for each year ending June 30th, 1885 and 1886 for support of Louisiana Soldiers Home established on Bayou St. John. Managed by Board of Directors of the Officers of two Veterans organizations of the Army of Northern Virginia and Army of Tennessee, the home has been in operation for past two years (1884?). Greatest number of inmates at any time has been 40 indigent Confederate soldiers. [probably AG Report?, 1886? – photocopy page in box]

In March 1866, shortly after the end of the war, the Louisiana Legislature decided to provide for local veterans, and the result was the Confederate Soldiers' Home for Louisiana. The original home operated in Mandeville until the Reconstruction government stopped funding it. Reconstruction ended in 1877, but it wasn't until 1882 that a reorganized board of commissioners purchased land on Bayou St. John to build a residence for the soldiers (1700 Moss St).

The new home was dedicated with a ceremony on May 16, 1884. Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson's wife made a flag of Louisiana with "Camp Nicholls" embroidered on it, and this flag was raised to the top of a 70-foot pole. As a special surprise, the Washington Artillery loaned a mounted brass howitzer named "Redemption" for the ceremony and hid it behind a grove of trees. When the canon was fired, folks were startled.

The property where the soldiers' home was built measured 325-by-350 feet and had several buildings already on the grounds, but more buildings were added for living quarters. The property also had amenities such as live oak and magnolia trees, a stocked pond for fishing and vegetable gardens. Years later, several old cannons taken from Spanish Fort were placed at the home, and in 1908, a submarine torpedo boat constructed during the Civil War resided at the grounds until it was moved again in 1942.

Camp Nicholls filled an urgent need for housing among indigent and disabled Civil War veterans, and 25 men became its first residents. By 1901, 117 veterans were living there. During its 60 years of operation, it was home to more than 300 Civil War veterans. After World War II the National Guard established a camp that operated there into the 1970s. Before Hurricane Katrina, the property was occupied by the New Orleans Police Department's 3rd District, special operations division and EMS.

All the buildings on the property were razed in 2009. It is the future home of Deutsches Haus, which moved to Metairie after the building it had occupied for 82 years was demolished in 2011 as part of the University Medical Center/VA hospital complex. Deutsches Haus President Keith Oldendorf says his group will begin clearing the property in January 2013. He says plans are to begin construction in the fall and open in 2014. <http://fsjna.org/2012/12/old-soldiers-home/>

Register books, 1884-1934; index, 1905-1944

authors: [Soldiers' Home of Louisiana \(New Orleans, Louisiana\)](#)

format: Manuscript/Manuscript on Film

language: English

publication: Salt Lake City, Utah : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990

physical: on 5 microfilm reels ; 35 mm.

Notes

Microfilm of manuscripts housed at the Louisiana National Guard, Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Soldiers' Home was also known as Camp Nicholls.

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/show?uri=http%3A%2F%2Fcatalog-search-api%3A8080%2Fwww-catalogapi-webservice%2Fitem%2F581318>