Camp Moore: a monument to the Confederacy

By EDNA CAMPBELL

Ranking high in Louisiana Tourist’s attractions is Camp Moore Museum and Confederate Cemetery located one mile north of Tangipahoa.

The museum is open daily to the public due to the organized long time efforts of the Camp Moore chapters of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and Sons of the Confederacy.

Seeds for the project were planted as far back as 1861, when Camp Moore was a recruiting station and training center for Confederate soldiers. For many years the unmarked place was lost in the forest.

On June 3, 1903, the cemetery was deeded to the state. Since that time loyal benefactors have worked to perpetuate their dream of a museum. It is now an historical asset to the state.

The museum, located on Louisiana 51, is easily accessible to tourists. A bronze plaque at the entrance gives tourist information. The plaque bears the image of Gov. Thomas Moore, the War Between the States (Civil War) governor for whom the camp is named.

Designed in ante-bellum style, the museum presents an inviting atmosphere for tourists. It has winding stairways, arched foyers, Venetian blinds and floor length windows.

Treasured heirlooms saved through generations since the Civil War now sit on display in protective safety for all interested persons to see.

Complementing the stately structure are the spacious grounds, where towering pin oaks, tall pines and camellias lend background interest.

A staunch iron gate with the site’s name and the date 1865 inscribed on it greets visitors at the entrance. A monument to the soldiers who lost their lives at the camp, stands in the cemetery. The figure of a Confederate soldier with his long rifle and knapsack sets atop the monument.

Camp Moore has been a major tourist attraction since the museum’s dedication at pompous ceremonies May 20. The spirit of the Old South was reiterated in song and speech for the formal rites dedicating the $46,000 building. Before that, a log cabin chapter house built in 1929 served as chapter meeting place for confederate organizations for many years.