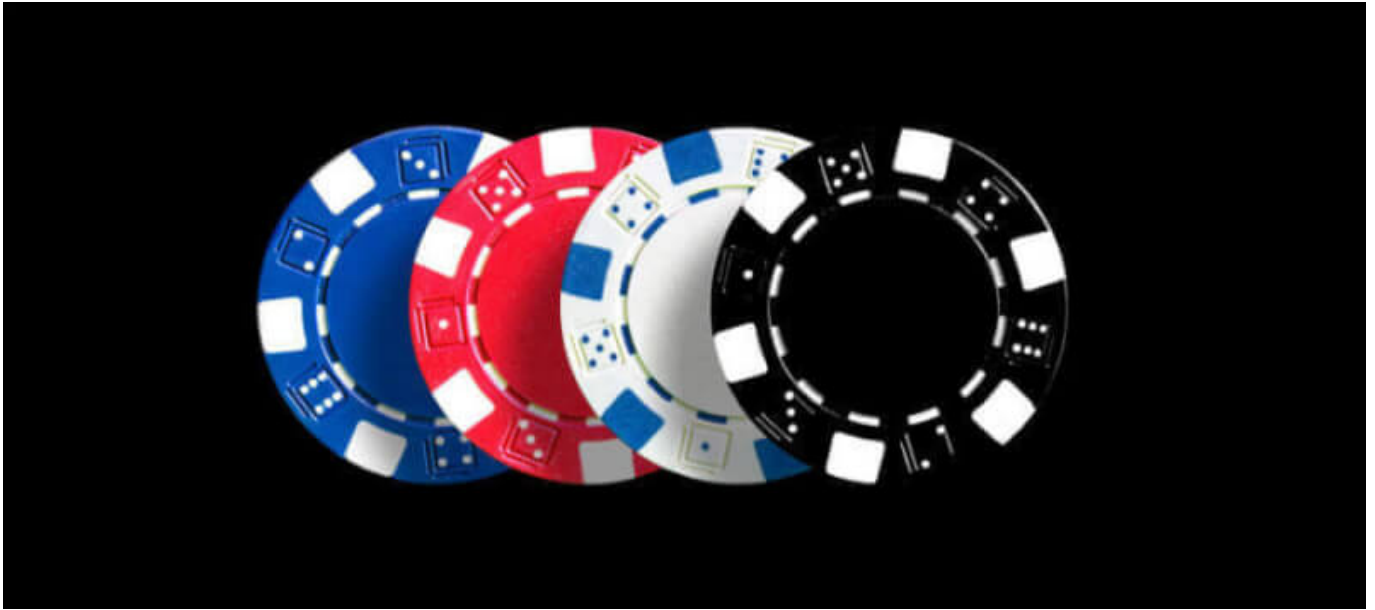




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[The Gambler From Natchez Torrent](#)



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In New Orleans, discharged army Captain Vance Colby learns of his father's killing done by three local Creole gents at a card game, and he sets out to punish the killers. Returning to New Orleans, following four years of army service in Texas in the 1840s, Captain Vance Colby finds his father, a professional gambler, has been killed. The police tell him his father was killed while caught cheating in a card game by Andre Rivage, an arrogant young dilettante. Vance protests that his father was an honest gambler and never used marked cards, but the police inspector tells him there were witnesses. Aided by a riverboat owner, Captain Barbee, and his daughter, Melanie, Vance sets out to clear his father's name and avenge his death. "The Gambler of Natchez" is a mildly watchable romantic adventure, set in the 19th century riverboat days... It offers Dale Robertson discovering that his gambler father has been dishonored and murdered by three of his traitorous partners...

In the tradition of "The Count of Monte Cristo", Robinson sets out to track down and destroy each of his aristocratic enemies, with time out to flirt with a breathtaking beauty (Lisa Daniels), and succumb to the temptations of a sultry-innocent river girl, Debra Paget...

Robertson carries off the romantic requirements with ease... He looks good in his fencing scenes... The film has plenty of humor and single combats with pistols, swords and fists... The men are brave and handsome, and the women good and beautiful... Evil is punished and right rewarded...

With a rambling script and tasteful costumes, the picture keeps rolling along to its predictable Technicolored happy ending...

Watch for a rangy athlete: Woody Strode in his decorative supporting role saving Dale Robertson's life.. Dale Robertson plays a pre-Civil War soldier and gambler(Vance),whose father is a famous gambler, widely accused of being a cheat. The plot is rather similar to that in "The Mississippi Gambler", released just the year before. Our hero gambles fairly, in contrast to some of his competition, and desires to build a gambling establishment where winners have better skill or luck, rather than illegal tricks.

In the romance department, in both films, the hero has two gorgeous women to choose from: one an aristocrat, while the other is a commoner. In "The Mississippi Gambler", Ty Power chooses the stubborn aristocratic one, while in the present film, Vance chooses the barefoot river girl, Melanie(Debra Paget),who practically throws herself at him. In both cases, the younger ingénue is chosen. In the present film, we were not absolutely sure who Vance would choose until the ending. The very different personalities of the two ingénues is a big factor in making this film a more pleasant viewing experience(at least for men). I'm sure a significant factor in Vance's choice of Melanie over Ivette(Lisa Daniels),was the fact that Melanie saved his life twice from assailants. Besides, she was a real Barbee doll, as Captain Barbee, her father, would agree.

As in "The Mississippi Gambler", there are 3 main villains, 2 of whom relate to Ivette: her brother Andre, and her fiancé, Claude St. Germaine. Also, Nicholas Cadiz, owner of a large casino. In addition, there is a German gambler who is angry that Vance won all his money. He picks a fight with Vance, and is about to stab him in the back with a meat hook when Melanie lands a frying pan on his head.

So, how did Vance, who originally had no financial interest in either the steamboat Baton Rouge(BR) or the property Araby(where Ivette and family lived), wind up owning both in full? It's a rather complicated story. Thus, I will summarize it as I understand it:

Vance's father, often called 'Chip', invested a 25% interest in the boat BR, as did each of the following: Andre Rivago(Ivett's brother), Cadiz and Claude(Ivette's fiancé). Chip wagered with Andre their 25% shares in BR, and won. Next, Chip wagered his 50% interest in BR against the Rivago estate: Araby, and won. Andre became enraged and shot Chip dead, placing some doctored cards in his hand, thus negating his winnings. Hence, Vance inherits Chip's original 25% interest in the BR.

Later, Cadiz challenges Vance to a pistol duel for causing the gaming commissioner to close his casino, due to house cheating. Vance wins Cadiz's 25% interest in the BR by winning the duel, giving him a total of 50% interest in the BR. He now bets his 50% interest against Andre's 50% interest (Apparently, Andre obtained Claude's 25% interest, either in a wager I missed, or somehow after Claude was killed). Andre loses the wager. He now bets the Araby estate against Vance's full ownership of the BR, and loses. Andre becomes enraged and tries to kill Vance, but himself is mortally wounded. Thus, all of the 4 original partial owners of the BR are dead, and Vance is now the full owner of the ship and estate. However, he signs the Araby estate over to Ivette, since his quarrel was with her brother, not her. She invites him to share the estate with her, but he declines, saying his heart belongs with the Baton Rouge and Melanie.

In all, I found this obscure film to be of greater interest and enjoyment than "The Mississippi Gambler" or, indeed, most films of that era. You can see it on YouTube. I have one major caveat: How did the waiter manage to see and remember all the details of the card playing leading up to Chip's assassination? a5c7b9f00b

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