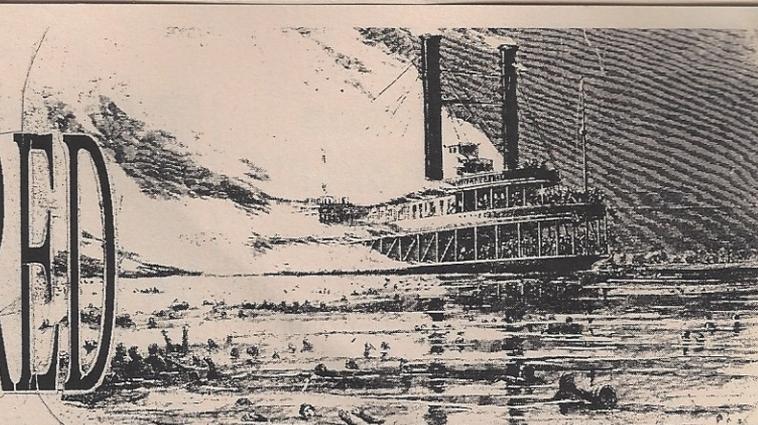


the SULTANA REMEMBERED



Newsletter of the Association of Sultana Descendants and Friends

April 27, 1865

SUMMER 2004

New Sultana Memorial at Vicksburg - 2005 Annual Reunion to be Held There

by Pam Newhouse

A new Sultana memorial in the form of a mural will be erected at Vicksburg, Mississippi next April. When we last went to Vicksburg in 2002 for our annual Sultana Descendants and Friends Reunion we helped dedicate an historic plaque located on the Mississippi River, near the April 25, 1865 loading site of the Sultana. At that time Nellie Caldwell, representing the City of Vicksburg, came to our banquet and told us that a seawall mural project was getting underway. Robert Dafford, nationally famous mural painter, would be painting various murals on the seawall, each representing an historical event connected with the city. Officials had agreed that the loading of the Sultana should be represented by one of these paintings. (For those who are online you can use Google as a search engine and type in "Vicksburg Seawall Murals" to see the ones that are already completed. Then go to "Robert Dafford" and read about the artist. Also go to "Paducah Floodwall Murals" and see the amazing work Dafford did there.)

The cost of each of these 12' by 20' murals is \$15,000 and takes weeks of research and painting. That night at the banquet we collected \$600 from members of our group towards this worthy project. Since then, another \$1,400 had been raised, leaving \$13,000 yet to raise.

I am delighted to tell you that the remaining balance has been paid by the Yazoo Chapter of the Sons and Daughters of Pioneer Riverboatmen. They meet in Vicksburg, have 26 members, and Lamar Roberts is the current president. Those of you who attended the 2002 reunion may remember visiting Lamar's Gray and Blue Museum downtown and also hearing him

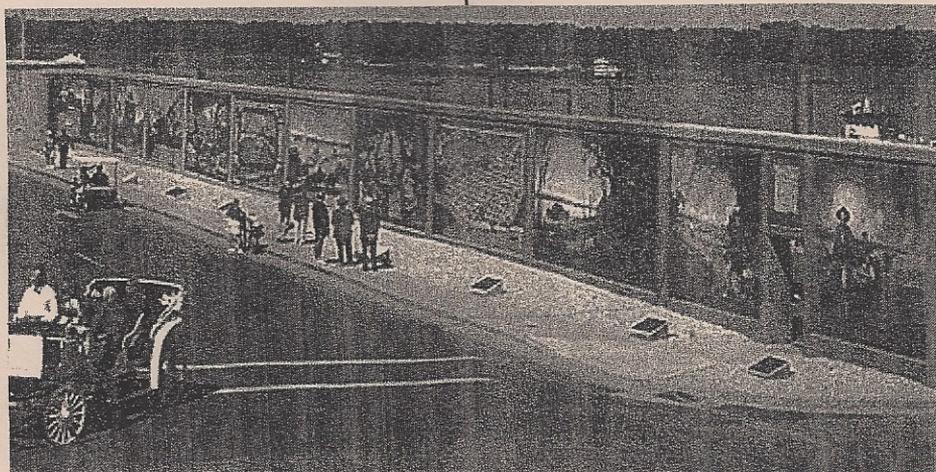
speak to us at our banquet. Lamar was greatly responsible for arranging our tours at the reunion and we are grateful for his abiding interest in the Sultana.

The City of Vicksburg is asking the Association of Sultana Descendants and Friends to be present at the unveiling/dedication of the mural which will be at 10 am, Saturday April 30, 2005. Gene Salecker, Jerry Potter, Norman Shaw and myself will all be there.....and we are asking that all Descendants and Friends to come and participate. More details will be in the next newsletter, which I will send out before the end of the year. Final plans will be in the March issue, or you can contact me directly at any time for an update.

We do know that we will again stay at the Battlefield Inn and visit Lamar Roberts' museum (new name/new location), the Battlefield Museum next to the Battlefield Inn. The museum is now much expanded, having 4,500 square feet, which gives plenty of room to display the

world's largest collection of models of Civil War gunboats and other ships. Also, there are many Civil War artifacts, posters, books, and memorabilia and displays which help the visitor understand the complex Vicksburg campaign and siege. We also will spend some more time at the newly restored downtown courthouse where Frederic Speed was court-martialed, and go again to the site of Camp Fisk, where hopefully we can visit re-enactors in a Civil War encampment. (And one place Larry and I want to return to is the Walnut Hills Restaurant, in an historic house, where Southern home cooked food is served family style at large round tables. Wonderful!)

Sultana survivors were disheartened because they never could convince the Federal government to erect a monument honoring those who died in the disaster. I think they would be pleased, however, to know that Sultana memorials have now also been erected in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi. With the help of others, we are achieving their goal of keeping alive the memory of those who were on the Sultana. I hope to see you all in Vicksburg in April of 2005! Please plan to come.



The Paducah, Kentucky floodwall, with murals by Robert Dafford

The Sultana Remembered is twice a year at: 4081 Clark Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105 Subscription: \$8. per year. (email: CW1865@aol.com)

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Our 2004 Sultana Reunion: Knoxville

by Norman Shaw

We met once again in Knoxville, TN, for our 17th annual reunion after gathering in Memphis, TN, in 2003 and Vicksburg, MS, in 2002. The signup sheet indicates 50 people attended Friday evening, but counting those who failed to sign up then and others who joined us at various times on Saturday, I would say we had a total number of about 75 folks for the weekend-- a good turnout! Thanks to all who came, especially those from great distances.

In an attempt to make the weekend as entertaining as possible, I tried to create a diversified schedule as done in the prior two years. The Friday evening session, starting at 6:00 p.m., was an enjoyable time as we listened to several speakers. Dr. Jim Tumblin talked about the capture of the Union fort at Sulphur Trestle, newspaperman Fred Brown described his exploits with author Jerry Potter in their attempts to locate the final resting place of the Sultana in Arkansas, David Meagher provided details and explanations of his excellent drawings of the Sultana based on his solid research, and Pam Newhouse compared the Northern and Southern Sultana survivors' reunions. Time was available at the conclusion of the talks to visit and discuss the always interesting and varied displays brought in by our members.

Saturday was a full day beginning at 9:00 a. m. with a bus ride to the Knoxville downtown riverfront area where we listened to an informative narrative by Michael Toomey, Ph.D., staff historian with the East Tenn. Historical Society, on Knoxville's early and Civil War history. Dr. Toomey doubled as our tour guide on the Star of Knoxville riverboat ride on the Tenn. River. Several of our ladies tossed flowers into the river during a short ceremony to honor the



Sultana men and passengers. After a pleasant trip of about 1.5 hours, we walked over to the Riverside Tavern for a tasty lunch before boarding the bus once again for a short drive across the river to visit Ft. Dickerson, a Union fortification during the siege of Knoxville. By chance, this was the day that the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable was having a work session at the fort with the assistance of about 120 young Air Force recruits who were fulfilling a public service requirement. All learned something from the talks given by Union reenactors and author Gene Salecker, and everyone came away with a better understanding of the military life of the common soldier accentuated by the fact we were standing in an authentic C. W. fort not unlike the ones many of the Sultana men defended before their capture.

Next stop was Mt. Olive Baptist Church Cemetery for a brief ceremony at the Sultana monument which was dedicated by the East Tenn. Sultana Survivors Assoc. on July 4, 1916. We appreciate reenactor Sgt. Bob Cannon and his Union troopers who came to help honor all the Sultana men. Then, a short walk down the hill to the church sanctuary where we replicated an oldtimers' Sultana

meeting including the Pledge of Allegiance, announcements, a reading of the names of 50 soldiers who perished on the Sultana, and singing by the Appalachian Harmonizers! At the conclusion, we moved down to the fellowship hall for fingerfood/snacks and drinks where each person spent as much time as he/she desired fellowshiping and reviewing displays before departing for home.

We are always excited to receive a visit from Texas resident Robert Warner, son of William C. Warner of the 9th Ind. Cavalry. This makes the third year in a row that he has been with us along with his son and daughter. We missed Glenna Green, daughter of Samuel Jenkins of the Third Tenn. Cavalry (U.S.), whom we hope to see next year.

As you have read, we are now planning to return to Vicksburg for our 2005 reunion and the dedication/unveiling of a Sultana seawall mural. We hope everyone will plan to attend as we meet for another fun, educational and significant experience with Sultana descendants and friends.

Norman C. Shaw,
Founder,

The Sultana Disaster

*worst maritime disaster
in American History*

So begins an oral report by a young Sultana descendant. His grandmother wrote me:

"Dear Pam, I thought you might be interested in the enclosed. My grandson, Daniel Mudge, age 10, in the 5th grade at Ben Franklin elementary school in Vancouver, WA, chose the subject of the Sultana disaster when his class was assigned by their teacher to write a paper on a historical event. He wrote a paper, then a shorter version for an oral presentation to his class. He took Gene Salecker's book and a copy of great-great grandfather Wesley Lee's portrait and description of the awful night, to class as exhibits. All of us who want the Sultana story to become more widely known and appreciated are pleased when the "younger generation" is interested. I am thrilled with the knowledge that Daniel has of the Sultana. I did not learn about it until I was an adult because Grandfather Wesley did not speak about it very often so my dad didn't know much of the story and Grandfather died before I was born.

Thanks for all you do to spread the word!.....

Sincerely, Virginia English"

(Virginia, thank YOU for passing the information on to your grandson. They are the ones who will keep the memory alive when we are gone.)

What follows is Daniel's report. Daniel, I am impressed with your good work!

"Remember the Sultana"

The Sultana disaster is the worst maritime disaster in American History. About 1,700 union soldiers died coming home from the Civil War on the Sultana. The Civil War had ended and the soldiers that were on the Sultana had just gotten out of their prison camps that they had survived. Now they had to survive the Sultana.

It all started in 1863 in Cincinnati where a big and beautiful side-wheel steamer was built. She was made for lower Mississippi cotton trade. The Sultana weighed 578.22 tons and carried a crew of 85. For two years she ran regularly between New Orleans and St. Louis. Records say she almost always carried Army personnel up and down the river. She could carry 376 people including her crew. Her captain was J. C. Mason of St. Louis.

At her regular stop at Vicksburg an engineer discovered that the boilers were leaking and had a repair crew fix it. They were done more quickly than expected. Then the soldiers came on board. The ship, (including the crew) had probably 2,300 people on board when it left Vicksburg. The Sultana was packed from top to bottom. They couldn't have ever fit another person on board. She had six times as many people on board than she had been made to.

By two o'clock the next morning she was just a few miles north of Memphis when it happened. Suddenly, the Sultana's boilers exploded! Ka Boom! The explosion sent tons of orange-colored flames boiling up into the black sky. The Sultana had been blown half apart. Hundreds of sleeping soldiers were blown bodily into the river. With them came huge pieces of twisted machinery and tons of red hot



coals. Men died by the hundreds in the water. Many of them couldn't swim and even if they knew how, they couldn't, because they had just gotten out of their prison camps and were in no shape to swim. Fire followed the explosion and soon the Sultana was ablaze. Men that had not been blown into the water jumped in anyways to avoid the flames. Some had the strength to break something off the ship and throw it in the water. Then they would jump in after it. Finally the Sultana sank. Some men were able to float their way to Memphis where some of them were rushed to the hospital. Wesley Lee was the first one to shore to tell what had happened. He is my great-great grandfather. If he died, I wouldn't be here telling you about the Sultana. Many days after that morning a barge was sent out to pick up the dead bodies. 1,500 - 1,900 died. This incident didn't get much attention because Lee had just surrendered and the president had just been shot.

1,700 people died on the Sultana which is more than the 1,500 that died on the Titanic! And the Titanic was much bigger than the Sultana! And now I've made my speech.....Remember the Sultana!

From the *Sunday Journal and Tribune*, Knoxville, Tennessee, Wednesday, July 5, 1916:

BEAUTIFUL MONUMENT UNVEILED TO MEMORY OF THE SULTANA'S MEN

Judge Henry R. Gibson, as Orator of the Day, Refers to the Disaster of Over Fifty Years Ago as the Greatest Shipwreck in the History of the World - four survivors of the Catastrophe Were Present Participate in the Day's Exercises.

With appropriate exercises the beautiful monument erected to the memory of the gallant Tennessee soldiers, who lost their lives April 27, 1865, when the ill-fated steamer Sultana was destroyed in the Mississippi river by explosion and fire resulting in the loss of 1,700 federal soldiers, was unveiled Fourth of July morning in the cemetery at Mount Olive.

The principal address of the day was delivered by Judge Henry R. Gibson, who represented this district in congress for ten years, and an address also was made by D. D. Nicholas, of this city, past department commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in behalf of the few remaining survivors of the Sultana, who live in Ohio.

The exercises began at ten o'clock, when Mr. John H. Simpson, one of the survivors of the Sultana, and president of the Sultana Survivors' association, made a brief and interesting address. Mr. Simpson stated the movement for the erection of the monument and has worked faithfully for some time of the realizations of his plans. The marble for the tablet was donated by Harmon Kreis.

Four Survivors Present.

Only four of the survivors were present for the exercises. They were John H. Simpson, D. A. Headrick, P. M. Keeble, and A.P. Varnell.

The following was the address by Mr. Simpson, presenting the monument, the acceptance speech was made by Rev. R.



R. Rule, a son of a veteran.

The monument was unveiled by Mrs. Samuel Pickens and Mrs. J. M. Phelps, widows or survivors of the Sultana. Taps were sounded by Boy Scouts, and the salute was fired by a squad in command of Captain John T. Chiles.

The audience then went to Mount Olive church, where the devotional service was conducted was Rev. W. L. Singleton, pastor of Mount Olive church. R.A. Brown delivered an address, after which dinner was served. The address by D. D. Nicholas, extending greetings from the Sultana survivors, living in Ohio, was delivered after dinner. Judge Henry R. Gibson, Major W. A. McTeer of Maryville, Alexander Eckel, Prof. John A. Anderson and P. M. Keeble also spoke in the afternoon.

Another fund has been started by Mr. Simpson to build a walk and make improvements around the monument. It will cost about \$60 and about half of the money was raised Tuesday. The unveiling exercises attracted an audience of about one thousand.

On Behalf of Ohio.

In his address on behalf of Ohio survivor D. D. Nicholas spoke as follows:

"By request, and in behalf of the few remaining survivors of the Sultana disaster who live in the state of Ohio, I greet you, the few survivors that are present today on this occasion, who are of the loyal and brave boys from the volunteer state of Tennessee. The men who have survived that awful catastrophe, together with the summer's sun and winter's snows, or more than fifty years, and whose heads are getting white.

We are pleased to know that our fellow Sultana survivors, together with other good loyal citizens of Tennessee have erected this beautiful monument to the memory of those Tennesseans who were on the ill-fated boat on that April night in 1865.

This monument is made of marble quarried from the lands near the birth place of David Farragut, by natives of the state of Tennessee, and shaped into this beautiful monument by Tennesseans. It has the names engraved on its four side of 356 brave Tennessee soldiers who were on that

ill-fated river craft. Many of those brave men lost their lives in defense of the stars and stripes, which is the emblem of the greatest country on God's green earth.

"God pity the American citizen who does not love the flag and honor our dead heroes. Place the flag in the hands of the children, the girls and boys, and then there will be no danger in the future to the home or nation.

"I am glad to see so many flags worn here today by the children as well as the older people. That flag has floated over a free country for nearly a century and a half, and may it float over a free people for many generations yet to come.

"Today, the 4th day of July, our natal day, the 140th since that great instrument, the Declaration of Independence was signed in Independence Hall in the city of Philadelphia, and more than 51 years after the blotting out of so many precious lives in the Sultana disaster.

"This monument, today unveiled in this beautiful cemetery on the hill side, among the last resting place of many of Tennessee's best citizens' who have gone on before. Future generations may look on this piece of marble with pride, and feel honored that they belonged to people so loyal to their country and welfare of its citizenship.

"We, the Ohio Sultana survivors have detailed our comrade, a loyal native of the Buckeye state, to be our representative and spokesman on this occasion. To extend to you our sincere congratulations for your success in completing and unveiling this beautiful monument, you worked so long and faithfully for its completion.

"May the blessings of the Ruler of all good be with you. Again extending our greeting to one and all that are here today."

Judge Gibson's Address.

In his address Judge Gibson, who was the orator of the day, called attention to the fact that the event that brought the gathering to that spot occurred in the month of April, 1865.

"April is a great month in our history as a nation," he said. "The battle of Lexington, which was the beginning of the Revolutionary War, was fought in April, and might we considered the beginning of our history as a nation. Washington was inaugurated in April, and that was the beginning of our constitutional government. He turned the crank, so to speak, that put the machinery of our government in operation. Lee surrendered his army in April in many

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respects is one of the most delightful months of the year, and especially is this true of the neighborhood of Vicksburg. The trees were budding, birds were mating, and sounds of the mocking bird filled the air. It was in this month and under these circumstances that the prison doors of Cahaba, Macon, and Andersonville were opened to nearly 2,000 federal prisoners, who were at Vicksburg awaiting transportation to their homes in Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and various other loyal states.

"These soldiers had suffered all the privations incident to the life of prisoners in a Confederate prison pen, and many were emaciated, by disease and hunger; all were more or less suffering from prison privations.

"In the meantime, the government had chartered the steamer Sultana, to take them home and in due time on came the steamer, an immense river packet, capable of holding comfortably 1,000 passengers, and as she came up to the wharf, she must have looked like a ship of mercy coming to take them home.

"Picture to yourselves what must have been the thoughts, emotions, and anticipations of these emaciated soldiers restored to freedom, in the most beautiful month of the year in that section. The great war, in which they had fought, ended happily for all, the union preserved, the flag they had fought under, supreme, in every state and section of the union.

"No doubt they thought of their reception at home, of the greetings from their mothers, wives, sweethearts, sisters, fathers and brothers. No doubt some thought of the great demonstrations which would welcome their return, the public celebrations, the ringing of bells, the music of bands, the shouts of welcome, and the display of banners.

"It was under these circumstances that they boarded the Sultana, and started on their trip up the Mississippi. In the meantime the boat had become overcrowded with other passengers, taken on either at Vicksburg or Memphis, until there were nearly 3,000 people on board, crowded like sardines in a box. But no one seemed disposed to complain, for they were homeward bound and that was a cure for every ill. 'Going home.' There are no two sweeter words in the English language than 'going home.' None that fills the heart with more unselfish joys

and exhilarating ecstasies.

"No poet, however gifted in imagination, no painter however skilled with brush and canvas can draw two pictures so diametrically opposite in every characteristic than that of these soldiers going home on the Sultana at midnight, and the awful catastrophe that in the twinkling of an eye blasted all their hopes and anticipations, wrought complete destruction with the Sultana, and plunged her thousands of passengers into watery graves, or destroyed them, with the fierce flashes of flames or burning blasts of steam. Not only were they assailed by fire, steam, and water and darkness impenetrable at a point where filed with great masses of thick ice, so that many who would otherwise have escaped were chilled to death, and died of cold either before or after their rescue.

"Exactly how many people were on board the Sultana will never be known, but from investigation I am satisfied that there were between 2,500 and 3,000 on board the steamer, for there were at that time a great many men, white and black, at Vicksburg and Memphis, who had been government employees and were anxious to get up north and as the Sultana was chartered by the government they took advantage of the opportunity and I am satisfied that at least 2,500 persons lost their lives in this awful disaster.

"This monument here at Mt. Olive which we have dedicated today is the only one erected to the memory of the survivors of this tremendous catastrophe. More people went down to their death in this disaster than in any other shipwreck in the history of the world. Some people think that this monument might have been erected at some more appropriate place, but that is neither here nor there. The monument is already erected, and there is no danger of its being taken up and moved elsewhere. Besides, it is built here on the banks of Knob Creek whose waters run into the Tennessee, from the Tennessee into the Ohio and from the Ohio into the Mississippi, and the rain that falls here upon this monument will find its way into Knob Creek, and thence will spread far and wide over the Mississippi, and cover the very place where lie the remains of any soldiers, whose bones yet lie unburied in the ooze bottom of the mighty Mississippi."

May God Bless them all.

Chester Berry's Introduction to his Famous Book

In 1892 Sultana survivor and Michigan resident Chester Berry (now a "minister of the Gospel in Tekonsha, Michigan") compiled the reminiscences of many who were on the Sultana the night of the disaster. The book is remarkable, and it is invaluable to those who want to read firsthand accounts of the tragedy. The book's introduction is a good summation of what happened by one who was there. It begins below:

The average American is astonished at nothing he sees or hears. He looks for large things. Things ordinary are too tame. This, and the exciting events of April, 1865 perhaps account for the fact that the loss of the steamer "Sultana" and over 1,700 passengers, mostly exchanged prisoners of war, finds no place in American history. The idea that the most appalling marine disaster that ever occurred in the history of the world should pass by unnoticed is strange, but still such is the fact, and the majority of the American people today do not know that there ever was such a vessel as the "Sultana." And many of those who do recollect something about the occurrence cannot tell whether it occurred in the Mississippi river, the gulf of Mexico, or the Atlantic ocean; and the purpose of setting them right and instructing others, thus holding in the memory of the present generation and those yet to be, the sufferings of the defenders of our county, is the object of this sketch.

The steamer "Sultana" was built at Cincinnati, Ohio, January, 1863, and was registered, as near as I can learn, at 1,710 tons. She was a regular St. Louis and New Orleans packet, and left the latter port on her fatal trip April 21, 1865, arriving at Vicksburg, Miss., with about two hundred passengers and crew on board. She

remained here little more than one day; among o'her things repairing one of her boilers, at the same time receiving on board 1,965 federal soldiers and 35 officers just release from the rebel prisons at Cahaba, Ala., Macon and Andersonville, Ga., and belonging to the States of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Tennessee, Kentucky, and West Virginia. Besides these there were two companies of infantry under arms, making a grand total of 2,300 souls on board, besides a number of mules and horses, and over one hundred hogsheads of sugar, the latter being in the hold of the boat and serving as ballast.

The boat arrived at Memphis, Tenn., about seven o'clock, P.M. on the 26th of April. Here the sugar was unloaded, many of the exchanged prisoners helping the crew, thus making a little money for themselves. Sometime in the evening, probably well towards midnight... after taking on her supply of coal, started on, upriver for Cairo, Ill. All was quiet and many of the soldiers, no doubt, were dreaming of home....but alas! those beautiful visions were dissipated by a terrific explosion, for about two o'clock in the morning of the 27th the boat...about opposite Tagleman's Landing had burst one of her boilers and almost immediately caught fire. The light, dry wood of the cabins burned like tinder and it was but short time ere the boat was wrapped in flames, burning to the water's edge and sinking. Hundreds were forced into the water and drowned in huge squads, those who could swim being unable to get away from those who could not and consequently perishing with them. One thing favorable for the men was the fact that there was a little wind, hence the bow of the boat, having no cabin above it, would face the wind until the cabin was burned off from the stern, then the boat gradually swung around, the unburned part of the boat above the water acting as a sail while that below acted as a rudder, and finally drove the men into

the water.

But there was one thing that was unfavorable, and that was the pitchy darkness... and consequently the men did not know what direction to take, and one man, especially, swam upstream. Another thing that greatly added to the loss of life was the fact that the river at this place is three miles wide (and was flooded). (Many) died from exposure in the icy cold water after they had reached the timber (on the shore) but were unable to climb a tree or crawl upon a log.

.....In the official list the names seem to have been taken without reference to rank or State they were from; sometimes, apparently, a squad from one company or regiment would be taken together, but often it was the case that they were all mixed up. In other cases many were left out; for instance, a sergeant came to me and asked to see the official list. It was shown him. "Why," said he, "there are but ten of my company reported here and I know there were eighteen of us." This has been the case in quite a number of cases.

On December 30, 1885, at a convention called in Fostoria, Ohio, there was a committee appointed, consisting of A.C. Brown, P.L. Horn, Wm. Fies, A.W. King, and G.N. Clinger, to prepare a suitable memorial and present the same to Congress, praying for a pension for each of the survivors of the lost "Sultana."



CHESTER BERRY
Veteran of the 20th Michigan Infantry.

From the Editor

Things are indeed happening! Tom Koba of Sandusky, Ohio is still working on his Sultana docudrama as are the Marshall brothers working on theirs in Oklahoma. Both hope to finish up this year. We are most grateful, and eagerly await the end results! If either of them are ready to take orders and ship before the Spring 2005 newsletter I will have them notify all Sultana Remembered subscribers.

And Sultana descendants David Markland and his dad, Jerry Potter and Gene Salecker, were all interviewed by the History Channel producers for an upcoming segment ("Engineering Disasters") about the Sultana for their "Modern Marvels" show. Watch for it! It could air as soon as mid-November.

Friend and Civil War collector Dick Skidmore of Hanover, Indiana has some Sultana-related books he is selling. He e-mailed me:

"I earnestly want them to go to some one who is a Sultana enthusiast and not just a book collector. I bet you know an enthusiast or two. So, what I have is Berry's 1892 Loss of the Sultana, rubbed on the edges as the professional dealers say; the James W. Elliott 1962 Transport to Disaster with an abused dust cover (some tears); also the Joseph Taylor Elliott 1913 "The Sultana Disaster" 199 page pamphlet as excerpted and reprinted from Indiana Historical Society Publications, v. V, no, 3; with some damage to the wraps: also Jesse Hawes' 1888 Cahaba, A Story of the Boys in Blue, a presentation copy by the author and in very fine condition, maybe mint.

As you would know, three of these items are scarce and, of course, are expensive when they can be found. I would prefer to sell these as a bundle, and like I said, to someone who would find them special."

He is asking \$500 for them, and the price is firm. (In doing a search for the Berry book online at rare book stores' sites, the price ranges from \$300 to \$460. This book is truly hard to find.)

E-mail Dick at:
richardskidmore@adelphia.net If you don't have e-mail and wish to contact him, call me and I will put you in touch with him. My number is (734)973-1047.



Sultana Memorial Project Underway

My name is Michael Bowman. I am a doctoral student focusing on Heritage Studies at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Recently, I have communicated with several of you regarding the Sultana tragedy. You have shared with me many heartbreaking and inspiring stories surrounding this tragic disaster. Throughout these discussions, I have been impressed with the grassroots efforts of this organization to keep the memory of the Sultana alive. Part of my interest and research into the Sultana has been to explore ways to bring greater attention to the greatest maritime disaster in United States history.

One of the possibilities of memorializing the Sultana is through a museum, possibly located in Marion, Arkansas. Many of you have visited the Sultana's final resting place in Marion, Arkansas while attending reunions in Memphis. Marion is about a 45 minute drive from Jonesboro and Arkansas State University and located in the heart of the Arkansas Delta. The Delta is a rich source of research and study for the Arkansas State Heritage Studies program. And the Sultana provides a unique opportunity for study for our University.

Let me tell you about Arkansas State University and our program. The Heritage Studies program at Arkansas State University equips students with the knowledge and skills needed to support the identification, assessment, preservation, interpretation, management and promotion of historic and cultural resources. Students study regional history, anthropology, archaeology, folklore, regional and ethnic literature, and the social sciences. The Sultana disaster and efforts by your organization to bring more attention to this tragic moment in United States history coincided with the mission of our program.

Arkansas State University has a great track record of preserving and restoring projects of historical significance. The Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum and Educational Center (<http://hemingway.astate.edu>) in Piggott, Arkansas is a perfect example of Arkansas State University's commitment to protecting and preserving important cultural and historic properties. The Center was once home to Ernest Hemingway. Portions of

Hemingway's *A Farewell To Arms* and other short stories were written while he lived and worked in this home. Arkansas State University is currently involved in researching, preserving, and restoring other projects that relate to the heritage of the Delta. My university is involved in the Great River Road and the nationally recognized Delta Byways.

While Arkansas State employs the talents many outstanding individuals knowledgeable in the area of restoration and heritage studies, we understand that the most important resources are the people and communities that will be impacted by a heritage project. Our staff is sensitive to personal legacies and community involvement. In order to maintain the integrity and authenticity of any cultural or historical landmark, we seek your help and input. A museum is one method of memorializing the Sultana. I am sure you have several ideas. Please send me your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions about memorializing the Sultana and bringing greater attention to this tragedy. My email address is: m Bowman@astate.edu. As more information becomes available, I will be happy to share it with you in future newsletters.

Thank you for your help. I look forward to speaking with many of you in the future.

Union Cake

Dark Part: The yolks of three eggs, one cup of molasses, half a cup of butter, three tablespoons of sour milk, one teaspoon of soda, two cups of flour, one cup of chopped raisins; cloves, cinnamon and nutmeg to taste.

White Part: The whites of three eggs, half a cup of butter, one cup of sugar, three-fourths of a cup of sweet milk, two cups of flour, two teaspoons of baking powder.

Put in the tin a portion of the dark cake then of the white, alternately in the same way until all the batter is used.

- Ladies Aid Society of the
Methodist Episcopal Church,
Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1863.