The Sultana Remembered is published quarterly at: 4081 Clark Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105. Subscription: $6 per year. (email: CW1865@aol.com)
of a huge steam laundry at Gayoso that Adams was among the first doctors in the hospitals had cared for 63,800 men. Known to the soldiers as "Mother Civil War, Mary Ann Bickerdyke, better Corinth (October 3-4, 1862) Mother tend the troops that had been wounded in the battle around Chattanooga, Tennessee. During her stay in Memphis, while General Grant was engaged in his campaign to capture Vicksburg, Mother Bickerdyke estimated that Memphis hospitals had cared for 63,800 men.

All thirteen of the hospitals in Memphis were located between one and two blocks from the banks of the Mississippi River, which allowed both supplies and wounded to be brought to Memphis by riverboat and then unloaded for the short trip to the hospitals. In late 1863, the United States Sanitary Commission opened a Soldiers' Home close to the river. Intended to provide housing and meals for enlisted men who were in transit between hospitals and regiments or who were awaiting transportation home, the Memphis Soldiers Home normally could accommodate 72 men, and had a full kitchen and dining hall.

Documents indicate that there was another Soldiers' Home where slightly injured Sultana victims were taken. This was an 1832 mansion on Beale Street (at Lauderdale) that had been Gen. Grant's headquarters when he was planning the Siege of Vicksburg. Of all the buildings used as hospitals in the aftermath of this tragedy, only this house, now known as the Hunt-Phelan Home, still exists. It is beautifully restored and it is a must to tour if you go to Memphis.

For the rest of the war, as the major battles shifted away from Memphis and the Mississippi River, fewer and fewer men were brought to the Memphis hospitals...until April of 1865.

On the morning of April 27, 1865, the water front of Memphis was literally alive with people. The city had been awakened by the sound of steamboat bells and whistles, signaling that some form of disaster had taken place. As the townsfolk rushed down to the Memphis wharf, they heard the first news of the terrible Sultana disaster. Almost immediately every carriage, wagon and buggy in the city was put to use carrying the horribly scalded and mangled survivors to five of the Memphis hospitals. Before the day was through, Washington would take 143 men, Adams 143, Gayoso, 140, Overton, 90, and the Officers Hospital, 6. Another 241 men, less injured, would be sent to the Soldiers' Home.

Medical practice at the time of the disaster called for the burned and scalded victims to be doused in linseed oil and covered with cotton wadding. The famous Samuel Clemens, also known as Mark Twain and himself a riverboat pilot, once described a friend who had been injured in a steamboat explosion. "His hurts were frightful, especially his scalds. He was clothed in linseed oil and raw cotton to his waist and resembled nothing human. He was often out of his mind; and then his pains would make him rave and shout and sometimes shriek...and now and then while these frenzy possessed him, he would tear off handfuls of the cotton and expose his cooked flesh to view. It was horrible." The description is typical of those that suffered from the Sultana explosion.

Sgt. William Fies (Co. B, 64th OH Inf.) was taken to Adams Hospital and never forgot what he saw there. He recalled, "I was placed in a ward with quite a number who were severely scalded, or otherwise badly injured, and such misery and intense suffering as I witnessed while there is beyond by power to describe." As Fies waited to be treated, he listened to the "agonized cries and groans of the burned and scalded," and admitted that "in most cases the suffering was of short duration as most of them were relieved by death in a few hours."

Another soldier brought to Adams Hospital was Nathaniel M. Fogelsong (Co. A, 18th MI Inf.). Only slightly injured, Fogelsong was spared the horrors of the burn ward and was instead taken to a ward filled with men that were suffering from their long immersion in the chilly waters of the Mississippi River. Though only slightly less grisly than the burn ward, Foglesong still found the other ward "filled with the boys that were on the boat, some of them nearly dead and dying with the injuries they received from the exposure."

One man brought to Overton Hospital was found to have his "head, face and body almost denuded of cuticle (i.e. skin) from steam." A Memphis newspaper reported on others brought to Overton: "Some were badly confused, and few were cut and lacerated from being hit with fragments of the wreck. All were more or less injured from their long immersion in the cold water, and were only saved by the prompt and judicious medical attention given them."

Although the Officers' Hospital received only six men, the suffering was no less painful. Capt. James M. McCown (Co. K, 6th KY Cav.) had been terribly scalded. "I was so badly scalded," he wrote, "...that my eyelids were closed for five days before I saw anything. I also inhaled some steam and I couldn't speak for seven days..." McCown failed to state that his inhalation of the scalding steam had caused the mucous membrane on his tongue and on he inside of his lips to peel off. It is no wonder that he could not speak for seven days!

In the weeks that followed the disaster, hundreds of Sultana victims were released from the five hospitals and sent home. However, almost 200 patients died. Again, Samuel Clemens described the typical scene in a burn ward: "There was one daily incident which was peculiarly depressing," he wrote, "this was the removal of the doomed to a chamber apart. It was done in order that the morale of the other patients might not be injuriously affected by seeing one of their number in his death agony. The fated one was always carried out with as little stir as possible, and the stretcher was always hidden from sight by a wall of assistants; but not matter: everybody knew what that cluster of bent forms, with its muffled step and its slow movement meant: and
all eyes watched it wistfully, and a shudder went abreast of it like a wave. Another soldier was dead. The Sultana had claimed another victim.

In spite of the loss of almost 200 patients, the staffs of the Memphis hospitals worked miracles in the treatment of the victims from the Sultana. Three weeks after the explosion, Albert Norris (Co. A 76th OH Inf.), who had fallen on the exploded boilers and burned his left arm and shoulder to a crisp, was released from Gayoso Hospital. A week later, Sgt. David Hites (Co G, 102nd OH Inf.), although seriously scalded in the explosion walked out of Gayoso Hospital on his own power.

On June 7, forty-one days after being badly scalded, John W. Lesley (Co. K, 3rd TN Cav.) was the last survivor to leave Memphis. Twenty-one days later, on June 28, George Washington Dawson (Co. G, 39th IN Inf.) died in Overton Hospital from his scalds. He was the last Sultana victim to die in a Memphis hospital.

With the war over, the necessity for so many hospitals in Memphis faded. Even before the Sultana disaster, a few of Memphis' military hospitals had closed. By June 1, 1865, four more followed suit, including Adams, Washington, and the Officers' Hospital. All remaining patients were transferred to Overton or Gayoso Hospitals. In July, the Soldiers' Homes were closed. On August 3, the last Federal soldier left Overton Hospital. Memphis' important connection to the nurturing and care of the wounded from both sides of the conflict was finally at an end.

Intended as a collecting site for Confederate wounded and quickly incorporated and expanded as a site for Federal wounded after the capture of the city by United States troops, the strategically placed city of Memphis played an important and vital role in saving the lives of thousands of soldiers who fought on both sides in the American Civil War. From the first to the last, Memphis had truly earned the right to call itself the "Good Samaritan City."
**Sultana & Cahaba Prison Publications and Related Regimental Rosters**

### Sultana

- **S1** Loss of the Sultana and Reminiscences of Survivors - A electronically reproduced copy of the 1892 book published by the Reverend Chester D. Berry, with the same page layout. Also included is a Table of Contents and Index of Names, not found in the original. (475 Pages)  
  **Price**: $35.00

- **S2** Index of Names of those Mentioned in the Berry Book - For those fortunate to own an original copy of Chester Berry’s book this index makes it possible to research on a specific name or names. Lists all persons mentioned in the book. (36 pages)  
  **Price**: $5.00

- **S3** Manifest of the Sultana’s Passengers and Crew - Listed by Regiment, Company, Rank and Name. For those interested in Regimental Histories. Includes date and place of capture and a short description of their fate. (122 Pages)  
  **Price**: $15.00

- **S4** Manifest of the Sultana’s Passengers and Crew - Same as above, but listed by Individual Name. For those interested in researching a specific person or persons. (122 Pages)  
  **Price**: $15.00

- **S5** Manifest of the Sultana’s Passengers and Crew with a Cross-Reference to books written about the disaster. Listed by name but includes references to books published by: Chester Berry, Jesse Hawes, George Schmutz, James Elliott, William Bryant, Jerry Potter and Gene Salecker. (169 Pages)  
  **Price**: $20.00

### Cahaba Federal Prison, Cahaba, Alabama

- **C1** Roster of Union Prisoners of War and some Civilians Interned at Cahaba 1862-1865. This is an ongoing work to reconstruct a list of prisoners. No official roster is known to exist or have survived the war. To date over 2,500 individuals have been identified. The roster includes: Name, Regiment, Company, rank, date and place of capture and, when known, a short summary of his fate. The listing is by Name, but also included is a summary by State, Regiment and Company. (225 Pages)  
  **Price**: $25.00

### Regimental Rosters

Regimental Rosters for units associated with Sultana, Cahaba, and other selected regiments, using a computerized data base. Rosters formats are identical to the original Federal rosters.

- **Tennessee**
  - R1 2nd Tennessee Cavalry - Union
  - R2 2nd Tennessee Mounted Infantry - Union
  - R3 3rd Tennessee Cavalry - Union
  - R4 1st Minnesota Volunteer Infantry (the Gettysburg Regiment)
  - R5 1st Minnesota Mounted Rangers
  - R6 7th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry
  - R7 9th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry

- **Ohio**
  - R8 27th Ohio Volunteer Infantry*
  - R9 39th Ohio Volunteer Infantry*
  - R10 43rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry*
  - R11 63rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry*
  - R12 102nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry *Fuller’s Brigade

- **Minnesota**
  - R13 8th Michigan Cavalry

### Manifest of the Sultana’s Passengers and Crew

- **R1** 2nd Tennessee Cavalry - Union
- **R2** 2nd Tennessee Mounted Infantry - Union
- **R3** 3rd Tennessee Cavalry - Union
- **R4** 1st Minnesota Volunteer Infantry (the Gettysburg Regiment)
- **R5** 1st Minnesota Mounted Rangers
- **R6** 7th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry
- **R7** 9th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry

**These rosters are available at a cost of $20.00 each.**

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Jerry O. Potter’s book, The Sultana Tragedy and Gene E. Salecker’s book, Disaster on the Mississippi can both be ordered online at http://www.amazon.com. Everytime someone purchases one of these books we get a percentage of the amount paid. To date we have made $20.40. Both of these books are becoming hard to find in bookstores. If you or someone you know wish to purchase one, try Amazon.com.

Sons of Union Veterans Honor Sultana Soldiers

Memphis Camp No. 1, SUVCW, at its meeting on 26 October formally changed its name to Sultana Camp No. 1, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

This was done for several reasons. The Sultana disaster in April 1865 was climaxed shortly after leaving Memphis with tremendous loss of life of American servicemen. The veterans on board had served faithfully in our nation’s service for an extended time, much of it as prisoners of war in the dire conditions of Andersonville and Cahaba prisons.

Minimal recognition has been given to Sultana in over 130 years. No other camp has selected Sultana to honor its memory, nor is it expected that any other camp would do so. It is fitting and proper that the camp in Memphis should carry this honor.

Our camp, for three years, has chosen to feature Sultana at our annual Memorial Day ceremony and will continue to do so. We are proud in this small way to remember those honorable persons who were aboard Sultana on its final voyage and join with others who seek to keep alive the memory of that event.

- Clyde J. Getman, Commander Sultana Camp No. 1, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

e-mail address: cjgetman@juno.com

Request for a Sultana Indiana State Historical Marker Denied

Marsha Stewart and husband William have been trying to get the State of Indiana to place a marker in Indianapolis honoring all Indian men, women, and children who were on the Sultana. (William is the gr gr grandson of a soldier in Co. G, 9th Indiana Cavalry who spent time in Cahaba prison before being put on board the Sultana). They spent many months of research and many more finding out what the proper procedure would be to make this happen. The application was initially approved by the Indiana Historical Bureau but was then denied at the next level.

Marsha says she hasn’t given up but doesn’t know where to go from here. If you have any ideas, or would like to lend your support to the Stewarts, contact them at 2012 E. 15th St., Muncie, IN 47302. Phone, (765)281-1150. e-mail: MSTEW58072@aol.com

(This sounds like what repeatedly happened when the surviving Sultana veterans petitioned both state and national governments for a memorial. Some kind to those who were on board. Denials from public officials both angered and saddened the vets. - Ed.)

From Sevierville to the Sultana

(excerpted from an article by Col. Gene Ingram of Memphis, TN)

I had a table at the 1994 Mid South Civil War Relic Show in Memphis, which is hosted by the Sons of Confederate Veterans camp I belong to. My table had about 200 pounds of lead and rusty relics on it, so I suppose it looked as though I might know a little something about relic hunting. A young fellow named Buddy stopped by with a bag of bullets in his hand and struck up a conversation. It seems he had just bought a new White's detector and didn't know where he could go hunting with it. I told him I would call him next time I went out.

We went out a few weeks later and he found four or five bullets and was hooked. He called soon after to tell me he had a map of all the (Civil War) campsites in the town of Collierville, Tennessee, about 20 minutes from my house. This small town was one of the many fortified by the Union army to protect the Memphis & Charleston Railroad from the possibility of Gen. N.B. Forrest and Gen. J. R. Chalmers disrupting their rail supply lines. We started hunting the in the area where a subdivision was being built, and found a few bullets.

Over the summer Buddy kept hunting that spot. He called me one Saturday and said he had some things to show me. This relic hunting beginner had found, among other things, a silver identification shield engraved "J.R. Smith / Co. D/ 3rd ETCUS / War of 1861".

Pvt. J. R. Smith’s identification shield.

Our initial research revealed that J. R. Smith was John Robinson Smith/ ETCUS stood for "East Tennessee Cavalry, United States". Smith, age 19, joined the US Cavalry on December 1, 1862, in Sevierville, Knox county, Tennessee, for a period of three years. His regiment, the 3rd Tennessee Cavalry, moved from Corinth, Tennessee after January 8, 1864, to Collierville, where they remained until February 11. It was during these last 35 days that J.R. Smith lost his identification shield. Next September 24 some 150 men from his regiment were surrendered to Gen. Forrest. He and the others were taken to Cahaba Prison near Selma, Alabama, and ended up on the Sultana, where Smith died at age 21.
TALES OF SURVIVORS

Two Lone Survivors Meet on Kansas Prairie After Long Years

Condensed from November 22, 1920 newspaper article by William Randolph. Sent by Linda Goldsmith, great granddaughter of Albert G. Niles, 55th Ohio Infantry. Some facts in the article were not correct, and I have made the appropriate corrections in parentheses. But it is a good story, and worth sharing with you. This writer (Randolph) subscribed to the unlikely theory that the Sultana was exploded by a Confederate torpedo. This is mainly what I have deleted; not only is it not true, but it is not the main point of the story. -Ed.

The year was (1865). The place was the lower Mississippi. It was (April). Night had come with all the inky blackness it flings across the waters of a silent stream. Born in the snows of the northland, the river rolled its icy waters between brooding cypress to the gulf. Stealing slowly along sheltered banks a big transport slipped northward. The Sultana was bearing to their homes over (2,300) Federal soldiers. (The war was over.)

(Most on board were asleep. At 2 AM) an explosion shook the air. The Sultana leaped skyward in flames and a red glare played across the waters until the cypress stand our in minute detail.

A few minutes after the explosion some dozen men could be seen above the water. Stealing along the gangplank of the packet and drifted rapidly downstream into the shadows.

Numbly by cold, with strength exhausted, they fell away one by one to death. At last the moon struck through rolling clods on the black waters and showed only two remaining. Both were physically equipped for such a struggle. One was a giant young German, broad of stature and thick of limb. The other, a small but compactly built man, of keen brown eye and bulldog courage. The larger man was named Addison Nihart (90th Ohio Inf., Hospital Steward, Co. G), the smaller, (Albert G.) Niles (55th Ohio Inf., Pvt. Co. C.)

After drifting for hours down the river they were rescued by negroes and were taken to different cabins, where they hovered for hours between life and death. Both recovered and each went his separate way without knowing what became of the other.

It was the winter of 1869. The Civil war was slipping into the past and its deep scars were slowly beginning to heal. Men were pushing westward in search of fortune. The unbroken prairies of Kansas, then wild and unsettled, had been thrown open to homesteaders. A group of young pioneers sat huddled around a fire in a hastily constructed cabin near the frontier village of Independence, Kansas.

But all but two rode out of town for provisions, leaving behind a boy of about 20, a giant young German, broad of stature and thick of limb. The young German was Addison Nihart, his companion, Jim Randolph, the youngest of the group of pioneers who had banded together for mutual protection, now a resident of Tulsa.

As they prepared to retire Nihart showed his back, seamed and scarred as if by scalding steam, and remarked, "See what I got on the Sultana when she sank." Then he told the story of how only he and one other (from their group) had been saved.

It was the spring of 1883. Fourteen years had passed since the little group sat in the pioneer cabin. Southern Kansas had been transformed from a wilderness into a land of cities and homes. The giant German occupied the same farm on which the cabin had stood. His younger companion, Randolph, had wandered far but finally returned to within 25 miles of where they had fought the wilderness 14 years before. Stopping for the night at the farmhouse of a friend, he was assigned a room together with a small, compactly built man, whose distinguishing feature was a keen brown eye. This man's name was (Albert) Niles.

As they prepared to retire for the night Niles showed his back, scarred in a ghastly manner, and remarked, "See what I got on the Sultana when she sank." Then he told the story, familiar to the listener, of how only he and one other had been saved (of those who were clinging to the gangplank) when one of the most tragic chapters of the Civil War was written.

Randolph told him of his meeting with Nihart years before, The next morning the two rode the 25 miles to where the other survivor lived. A friendship was formed between Niles and Nihart which continued until a little over a year ago, when the former died here in Tulsa at the home of his son, Alva Niles, president of the Security State Bank. Nihart is now a prosperous farmer near Pittsburg, Kansas.

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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

You may have noticed that I have combined the Fall 1998 issue of the newsletter with that of the Winter 1999. I did this because the fall slipped away from me as I spent part of it in Italy (visiting a relative who works there for NATO) and the rest of it, it seemed, trying to adjust to the changeover of a new computer and software upgrades. Also I was helping my newly-retired husband Larry with various new projects, both home and professional. I do apologize because I prefer to keep the issues separate.

First, I want to thank ten of you for responding to my request for funds to pay for our Sultana website: Judith Warren, Louis Burr, Richard Waters, Virgil Davis, James Lawler, John & Carol Lundquist, Pat Kuhloff, Dwight Burnum, Rayleen McCreery, and Linda Goldsmith (who sent in a whopping $100$! These generous souls sent a total $236. That, added to the $110 from monies collected at the reunion, put us over the top by $46. (Yearly cost of website-$300/yr.)

The website presence is a good thing- it acts as a clearing house for folks who many have never heard of the Sultana, and/or for those who have but want to know more. But in order to be really effective we need to have someone to be in charge of adding informational updates to it, something that has not been done. Also, the webserver we have in Pennsylvania, The Fabian Corp., has done a fine job for us, but it one of you would like to propose a more inexpensive alternative, that would be great too. So- is anybody out there who can help us out?

I continue to hear from many descendants online and by regular mail. It is a joy to be able to tell someone that we do indeed have information about their ancestor- thanks mainly to the voluminous research done by Gene, Jerry, and now Jack Lundquist. Many of you have asked me over the years to put together a descendants list. Now we are going to get it; just as soon as Jack gets your information, it will be one step closer to being done. Don't delay! Send it to Jack RIGHI NOW! (see article, P. 3).

Cathy Abernathy (desc. of Whitfield Hargett; commonly misspelled as "Hargart"- 7th KY Cavalry) would like to know if anyone has a photo of that regiment, or even of Hargett himself. Contact her online at cabernathy@hci.net

A correction: Last newsletter edition's account by J.R. Collins of his capture and of Cahaba Prison was sent to me by Gene Shields of Hurst, TX who is J.R.'s gr gr uncle- not his gr gr grandfather. Gene's gr gr grandfather was J.R.'s father, John Henry Collins, who died on the Sultana.

From the land of the frozen north (Michigan), buried under 32" of snow- I say goodbye for now.

REMINDER
Your newsletter subscription is paid through the date at the bottom of your address. (i.e, FA99 is Fall of 1999).

12th Annual Sultana Reunion
Mt. Olive Baptist Church
Knoxville, Tennessee
Saturday, April 10, 1999
(Time to be announced)

Further information will be in the Spring 1999 issue of this newsletter. Mark your calendars!