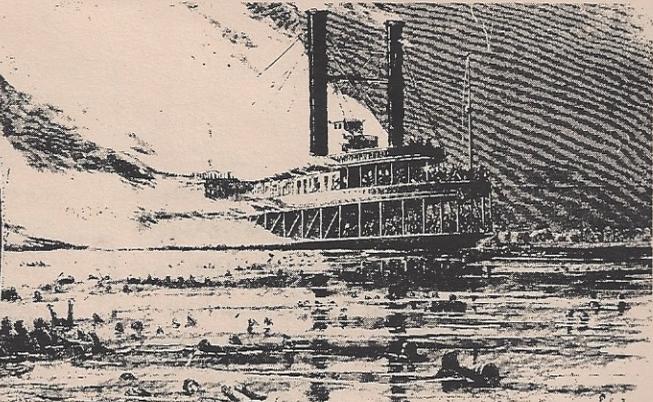


the SULTANA REMEMBERED



Newsletter of the Association of Sultana Descendants and Friends

April 27, 1865

SPRING 2004

Reunion Time in Knoxville - 2004: “Sultana Survivors Return Home”

If I had to choose a theme for this year's reunion, it would be “Sultana Survivors Return Home”. This is the third year in telling the Sultana story regionally. In 2002, we met in Vicksburg, MS, to become acquainted with the start of the ill-fated journey of over 2000 recently released Union POWs and the crew and passengers on the Sultana. Last year we gathered in Memphis, TN, to visit sites pertaining to the last stop of the Sultana and the aftermath of the explosion including hospital care of the injured. We spent memorable time busing over to the Arkansas side of the Mississippi River to the actual burial location of the Sultana. This year we will focus on the return home of the survivors, in this case the members of the 3rd Tenn. Cavalry (U.S.), who all came from Knoxville and the surrounding area.

Friday evening activities will start at 6:00 p.m. at Mr. Olive Baptist Church, a few miles from the Knoxville airport (see map). This will be an excellent time to view displays to be followed by several short, informative presentations. One will be given by Knoxville Dr. Jim Tumblin who will tell his ancestor's survival story and return

to civilian life. Also, details will be given about the Knoxville Sultana Survivors Association while contrasting it with its northern counterpart. Other talks, videos, etc. are planned that you do not want to miss!

Saturday's schedule will start with a short ceremony at 9:00 a.m. to cast a wreath into the Tennessee River off one of the Knoxville downtown bridges to replicate an act of remembrance carried out by the Sultana men. At 10:30 a.m., we will take a 1 1/2 hour steamship ride on the “Star of Knoxville” (cost \$12.35 each prior to boarding) and return at noon for lunch at your choice of one of three fine waterfront restaurants. After our meal, we will caravan across the Tennessee River to an authentic Civil War fort, Ft. Dickerson, built by Union forces to protect Knox-

“ I look forward to meeting everyone at our 2004 Knoxville homecoming! -Norman Shaw

ville. This will give everyone a chance visit a fortification similar to the ones in which the 3rd Tenn. was captured, some at Athens, AL, and the remainder at Sulphur Springs Trestle, AL. Union reenactors will participate as sentries and to provide rifle firing demonstrations.

Next stop is the Sultana monument for a ceremony and time of remembrance with, again, the assistance of our reenactor friends. A short walk down the cemetery hill will bring us to Mt. Olive Baptist which was often used by the Knoxville Sultana Survivors Association for their annual meetings. Here, we will initially gather in the sanctuary, as our group did several times in years past, to recreate, as best we can, a meeting of local Sultana survivors from years ago. There will be a few brief remarks, announcements, and a time of singing provided by the Appalachian Harmonizers who will entertain us with selections from the Sultana men's favorite hymns.

Dinner downstairs in the fellowship hall will follow catered by locally owned Buddy's BBQ with a meal of beef or pork, slaw, chips, beans, and drinks (cost \$7.50 each to be collected at the church prior to eating). The day will conclude with a few last remarks and a chance to view the displays one

(Knoxville Reunion, con't)

17th Annual Sultana Reunion

Mt. Olive Baptist Church

2500 Maryville Pike

Knoxville, Tennessee

FRI., APRIL 2 & SAT., APRIL 3, 2004

6 PM Friday:

(Meet in the Cemetery next to the Church, at the Sultana Monument)

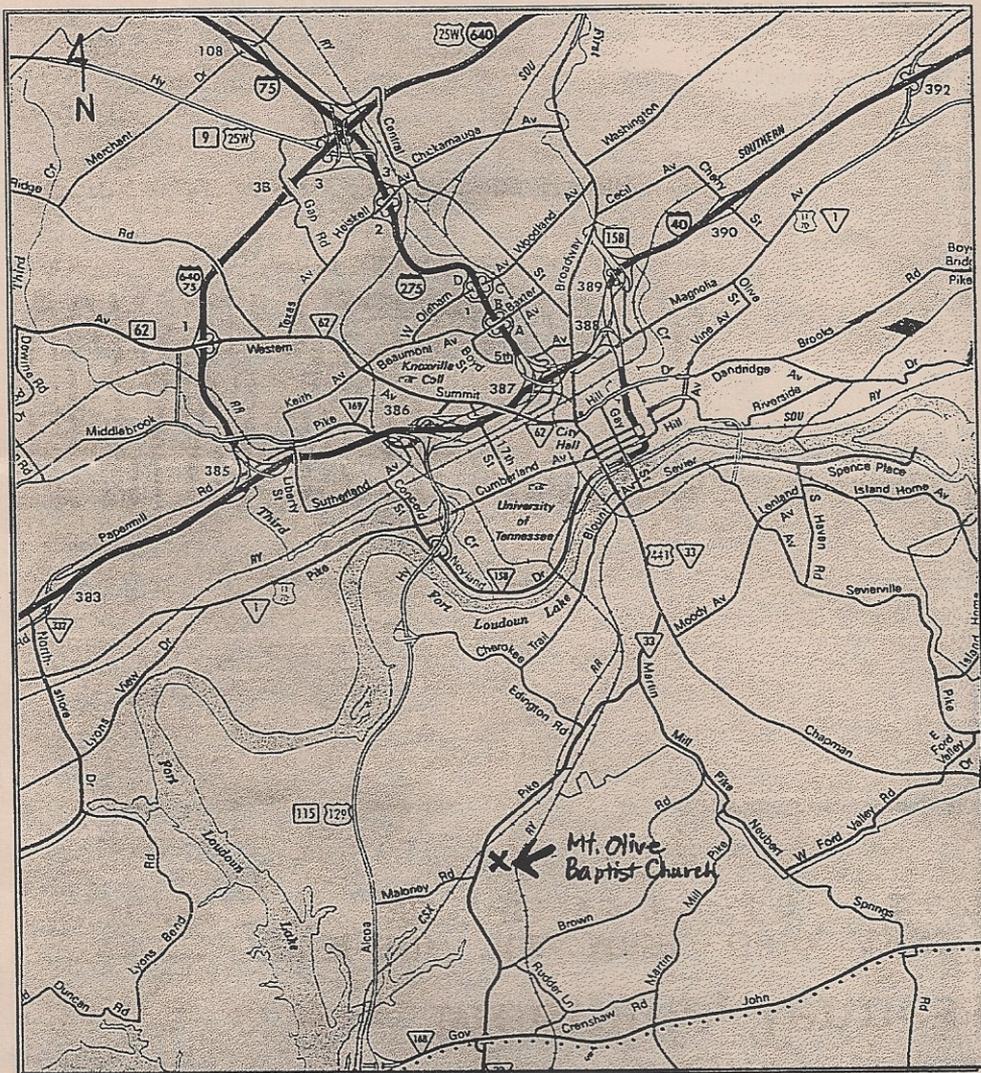
more time.

I drove to the airport last week to find out what motels/hotels were available. The Hilton is on the airport side of the highway while the rest are practically in a row immediately across the highway from the airport. A list follows that will provide a variety of choices so that each member can book his/her own reservations at the one that best meets that person's needs: Hilton, Hampton Inn, Family Inn, Comfort Suites Airport, and Country Inn and Suites/ Knoxville Airport. Keep in mind that the Knoxville area has numerous other motels that one could book and then drive to our meeting sites. For car rentals at the airport, I noticed Budget, Alamo, and National.

There is really no deadline to register (except Buddy's needs an eating total three days prior to the meal) but go ahead and send an e-mail to Pam Newhouse and me simultaneously as soon as you are able so that she can compile a roster and I can simply know who and how many are coming this year--hopefully at least a 100, including our Knoxville contingent. Please provide your total number with names, local and e-mail addresses, a phone number, an ancestor's name, if any, and any additional pertinent information. My e-mail address is shawpan@msn.com and Pam's is CW1865@aol.com.

I look forward to meeting everyone at our 2004 Knoxville homecoming!

Norman Shaw,
Founder, Association of Sultana Descendants and Friends



From the city: Take I-40 (near downtown Knoxville) to the Alcoa Highway (US 129), the "Airport" exit, 386B; go south on this (crossing over the Tennessee River and passing the University of Tennessee Hospital complex on the left) - about 2 to 3 miles. Turn left on Maloney Rd. (1 1/2 miles after passing the Southgate Shopping Center) and go to Maryville Pike. Straight in front of you, across the Pike, is Mt. Olive Baptist Church. (To go to the cemetery, turn left here onto Maryville Pike and Mt. Olive Cemetery will be about 50 yds. down the Pike on your right. The Sultana monument is not hard to find- the cemetery is small. Look for the people gathered there.)

From the airport: Take the Alcoa Highway from the airport- go north approximately 6 1/2 miles. Turn right on Maloney Road, a little less than a mile and a half after passing the Gov. John Sevier Highway (State Road 168). Follow directions above, (starting with Maloney Rd.) to church.

There Never Was Enough to Eat

None of us living today can imagine what Civil War soldiers went through in order to have enough to eat. And many didn't, for days on end.

It was particularly bad in the Confederate army, whose supply lines were often badly disrupted even when there WAS food to be distributed, leaving the men to forage as best they could for sustenance.

The following was sent to Sultana descendant Charles Dawkins (Sgt. Maj. Van Buren Jolley, 10th IN Cav, Co. K) and it gives some insight into this subject:

This is an article written by the Rev Robert J. Burdette, who was a Union Soldier. This incident occurred at the Battle of Corinth (April/May, 1862). This was found in a book at a library, and it was taken from the *Booneville Banner*, Booneville, Mississippi in the July 11, 1912 issue of their newspaper.

The viewpoint of the Union soldier is that of an incident that occurred at this battle reveals the physical condition of the soldiers in gray who fought in this battle.

"We found a dead Confederate soldier lying on his back, his outstretched fingers stretched across the stock of the rifle lying by his side. He was one of Rogers Texans. Fifty-seven of them we had found lying in the ditch of Fort Robinette. I covered his face with a slouch hat and took off the haversack slung to his neck, that it might not swing as we carried him to his sleeping chamber, so cool and quiet and dark, after the savage tumult and dust and smoke after that day of horror.

'Empty, isn't it?' asked the soldier working with me. I put my hand in it and drew forth a handful of roasted acorns; I showed them to my comrade.

'That's all,' I said.

'And he'd been fighting like a tiger for two days on that forage,' he commented. We gazed at the face of the dead soldier with new feelings.

By and by he said, 'I hate this war and the things that caused it. I was taught to hate slavery before I was taught to hate sin. I love the Union as I love my mother - or better. I think that this is the wickedest war that was ever waged in modern times. But this,' and he took some of the acorn from my hand, 'this is what I call patriotism.'

'Comrade,' I said, 'I am going to send these home to the *Peoria Transcript*. I want them to tell the editor this war won't be ended until there is a total failure of the acorn crop. I want the folks at home to know what manner of men they and we are fighting.'

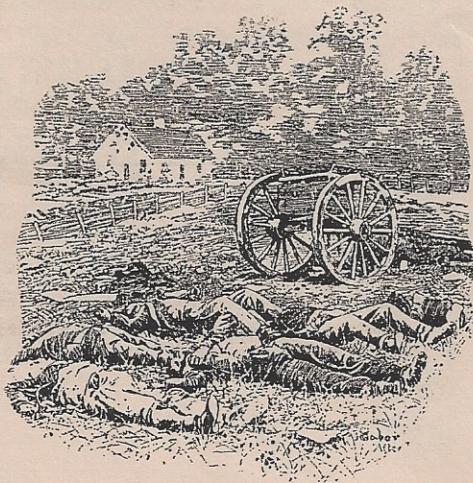
That was my experience as a soldier. It never changed my opinion of the cause of the Confederacy. I was more devoted to the Union as the war went on. But I never questioned the sincerity of the men in the Confederacy again. I realized how dearly a man must love his own section who would fight for it on parched acorn. I wished that his love and patriotism had been broader, reaching from the Gulf to the Lakes, a love for the Union rather than for a State. But I understood him. I hated his attitude toward the Union as much as ever but I admired the man. And after Corinth I never could get a prisoner half way to the rear and have anything left in my haversack.

Oh, I too have suffered the pangs of hunger at times when rain and mud or the interference of the enemy detained the supply train. But that man half starved. That's different.

Other haversacks we found that night on Corinth field had a slight ration in them. Sometimes it was a chunk of corn pone. I used to think hard tack filled the order for a concrete breakfast slab. But corn pone a week old reconciled me to soft food. Hard tack for me.

So, the Southern people loved the states for which they suffered."

- Rev. Robert J. Burdette,
Ex-Union soldier.



Those Texans were and are a special breed, I must admit. Here's what Gene Shields has to say on the subject:

I'M A TEXAN

I wasn't born in this fair state
Of that I'm really sorry.
They brought me here a little late,
But that's a long, long story.

We settled here when I was seven,
And I'm glad we did.
Texas is really next to Heaven,
A real good place to raise a kid.

In school they taught me Texas
history,
The siege at Alamo.
To me it's really not a mystery,
Cause they made sure I know.

From Rio Grand to the Red River
You're sure to find a friend.
For everyone's a welcome-giver.
Yes, that's a Texas trend.

"Drive Friendly" is the way to
drive
That's on a highway sign.
The ones who do just may survive
And that would be divine.

I wouldn't dare embarrass you
By asking you where you're from.
For if you are a Texan true,
The answer's sure to come.

We came to Amarillo first,
When there was lots of dust.
Now we have a home in Hurst,
And here we'll stay, I trust.

- Gene Shields