

Cahaba Prison And The Sultana Disaster

191 pp. New paperback. Erastus Winters was born in Cincinnati in 1843. In 1862 he enlisted in Company K of the 50th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which was organized at Camp Dennison near Cincinnati, and mustered in for three years service under the command of Colonel J. R. Taylor. The regiment was attached to 34th Brigade, 10th Division, Army of the Ohio. In straightforward and measured prose, Winters describes his Civil War experiences, from camp life to pitched battles to prison. The 50th saw early action at the Battle of Perryville, Kentucky, and later joined General Sherman's Atlanta Campaign. In 1864, Winters was captured at the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee, and spent the remaining months of the war at the notorious Cahaba Prison in Alabama. Having survived the war, he nearly perished on his way back to Ohio, when the steamboat on which he and hundreds of other paroled prisoners were travelling, the Sultana, exploded and sank near Memphis. It was among the worst naval disasters in American history with over 1700 souls lost. Winters was not a remarkable soldier, neither gallant officer or daring hero, but he offers in his memoir the Civil War that an average infantry soldier experienced: fear, courage, death, humor, camaraderie, and ultimately a lifelong sense of pride. Until he died in 1925, Winters remained active in the Union veterans organization, the Grand Army of the Republic, and though decades removed, the Civil War was never far from him.

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? When General E. A. Paine assumed command of the U.S. Army's District of Western Kentucky at Paducah in the summer of 1864, he faced a defiant populace, a thriving black market and undisciplined troops plagued by low morale. Guerrillas pillaged towns and murdered the vocal few that supported the Union. Paine's task was to enforce discipline and mollify the secessionist majority in a 2,300-square-mile district. In less than two months, he succeeded where others had failed. For secessionists, his tenure was a "reign of terror"—for the Unionist minority, a "happy and jubilant" time. An abolitionist, Paine encouraged the enlistment of black troops and fair wages for former slaves. Yet his principled views led to his downfall. Critics and enemies falsified reports, leading to his removal from command and a court-martial. He was exonerated on all but one minor charge yet historians have perpetuated the Paine-the-monster myth. This book tells the complete story.

When Stephen's father passes away in 1861, he and his mother and brother are left at the mercy of a cruel uncle. As the Civil War intensifies to the south, Stephen's brother enlists to fight for the Union and help support the family. The war drags on and Stephen, an accomplished bugler in the town band, is witness to the sad consequences of slavery. The opportunity to enlist as Colonel Eli Lilly's personal bugler arises and Stephen jumps at the chance. After surviving the Battle of Sulphur Trestle in Alabama, Stephen is sent to a Confederate prison camp to await the end of the war. The trials of prison camp are severe but at war's end Stephen is set to be sent home to Indiana

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aboard the steamboat Sultana. However, disaster strikes and the ship catches fire and capsizes in America's largest maritime disaster. Through luck and fortitude Stephen survives, but his Civil War journey is one that will engage readers of all ages. Based on historical facts and characters, Stephan's story truly captures the essence of the era. "A delight for any student of the Civil War". -- The Courier

The worst maritime disaster in American history wasn't the Titanic. It was the steamboat Sultana on the Mississippi River and it could have been prevented. It is the worst Civil War POW camp you've probably never heard of. A larger percentage of those who left Cahaba died once back in Union lines than of those who left Andersonville. It was five times more crowded than Andersonville. Jesse Hawes was an 18-year-old enlistee in the 9th Illinois Cavalry who was captured and imprisoned at Cahaba. In one of the most articulate, unique, and moving accounts of prison life in the south, the Colorado physician looks back more than thirty years to the desperate days filled with starvation, death, and disease. Not only did he rely on his memory but he researched the Union and Confederate records to bring incredible detail to this comprehensive work. After the war, Hawes became a respected Colorado surgeon. He attended many reunions of the 9th Illinois and never forgot the friendships born of unspeakable hardships. Every memoir of the American Civil War provides us with another view of the catastrophe that changed the country forever. For the first time, this long out-of-print volume is available as an affordable, well-formatted book for e-readers

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and smartphones. Be sure to LOOK INSIDE by clicking the cover above or download a sample.

Running from New Orleans to St. Louis in the summer of 1870, the race between the Robert E. Lee and the Natchez remains the world's most famous steamboat race. This book tells the story of the dramatic contest, which was won by the stripped-down, cargoless Robert E. Lee after three days, 18 hours, and 14 minutes of steaming through day, night and fog. The Natchez finished the race only hours later, having been delayed by carrying her normal load and tying up overnight because of the intense fog. Providing details on not only the race narrative but also on the boats themselves, the book gives an intimate look at the majestic vessels that conquered the country's greatest waterway and defined the bravado of 19th-century America.

This is the story of the little-known prisoner-of-war camp on the banks of the Alabama River near Selma where 5,000 Union soldiers were interned during the latter part of the Civil War. After surviving imprisonment and a forced march overland to the Mississippi River, they were to die in the worst accident of its type in U.S. history -- when the Sultana steamship exploded in mid-river while transporting them back to their homes in the North. Book jacket.

While large armies engaged in epic battles in the eastern theater of the Civil War, a largely unchronicled story was unfolding along the Mississippi River. Thirty

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"Special Scouts" under the command of Lieutenant Isaac Newton Earl patrolled the river, gathering information about Confederate troop activity, arresting Rebel smugglers and guerillas, and opposing anti-Union insurrection. Gordon Olson gives this special unit full book-length treatment for the first time in *The Notorious Isaac Earl and His Scouts*. Olson uses new research in assembling his detailed yet very readable account of Earl, a dynamic leader who rose quickly through Union Army ranks to command this elite group. He himself was captured by the Confederates three times and escaped three times, and he developed a strategic -- and later romantic -- relationship with a Southern woman, Jane O'Neal, who became one of his spies. In keeping the river open for Union Army movement of men and supplies to New Orleans, Earl's Scouts played an important, heretofore unheralded, role in the Union's war effort.

Transcribed, edited, and anotated Civil War journal written by Mary Jane Chaduck during the years of Federal invasion, 1862-1865.

A List of the Union Soldiers Buried at Andersonville - Vol. 3 is an unchanged, high-quality reprint of the original edition of 1868. Hansebooks is editor of the literature on different topic areas such as research and science, travel and expeditions, cooking and nutrition, medicine, and other genres. As a publisher we focus on the preservation of historical literature. Many works of historical writers

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and scientists are available today as antiques only. Hanserbooks newly publishes these books and contributes to the preservation of literature which has become rare and historical knowledge for the future.

Provides an investigation of the reasons behind, and the cover-up of the steamboat explosion which took the lives of 1,800 Union soldiers in 1865 Searching for your Alabama ancestors? Looking for historical facts? Dates? Events? This book will lead you to the places where you'll find answers. Here are hundreds of direct sources--governmental, archival, agency, online--that will help you access information vital to your investigation. Tracing Your Alabama Past sets out to identify the means and the methods for finding information on people, places, subjects, and events in the long and colorful history of this state known as the crossroads of Dixie. It takes researchers directly to the sources that deliver answers and information. This comprehensive reference book leads to the wide array of essential facts and data--public records, census figures, military statistics, geography, studies of African American and Native American communities, local and biographical history, internet sites, archives, and more. For the first time Alabama researchers are offered a how-to book that is not just a bibliography. Such complex sources as Alabama's biographical/genealogical materials, federal land records, Civil WarÂ-era resources, and Native American

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sources are discussed in detail, along with many other topics of interest to researchers seeking information on this diverse Deep South state. Much of the book focuses on national sources that are covered elsewhere only in passing, if at all. Other books only touch on one subject area, but here, for the first time, are directions to the Who, What, When, Where, and Why.

Stories of individual soldiers throughout history.

A detailed history of a vitally important year in Alabama history. The year 1865 is critically important to an accurate understanding of Alabama's present. In 1865 Alabama: From Civil War to Uncivil Peace Christopher Lyle McIlwain Sr. examines the end of the Civil War and the early days of Reconstruction in the state and details what he interprets as strategic failures of Alabama's political leadership. The actions, and inactions, of Alabamians during those twelve months caused many self-inflicted wounds that haunted them for the next century. McIlwain recounts a history of missed opportunities that had substantial and reverberating consequences. He focuses on four factors: the immediate and unconditional emancipation of the slaves, the destruction of Alabama's remaining industrial economy, significant broadening of northern support for suffrage rights for the freedmen, and an acute and lengthy postwar shortage of investment capital. Each element proves critically important in understanding how

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present-day Alabama was forged. Relevant events outside Alabama are woven into the narrative, including McIlwain's controversial argument regarding the effect of Lincoln's assassination. Most historians assume that Lincoln favored black suffrage and that he would have led the fight to impose that on the South. But he made it clear to his cabinet members that granting suffrage rights was a matter to be decided by the southern states, not the federal government. Thus, according to McIlwain, if Lincoln had lived, black suffrage would not have been the issue it became in Alabama. McIlwain provides a sifting analysis of what really happened in Alabama in 1865 and why it happened—debunking in the process the myth that Alabama's problems were unnecessarily brought on by the North. The overarching theme demonstrates that Alabama's postwar problems were of its own making. They would have been quite avoidable, he argues, if Alabama's political leadership had been savvier.

Lee had surrendered and Lincoln was dead. Jacob & Jeremiah Winslow, parolees of the worst Confederate prison camps are finally heading home. Their last step, a journey north on the Mississippi, on a crowded Riverboat named SULTANA. But that journey will be the end for one, and a transformation for the other. For in the dead of night, just past Memphis, the Sultana's boiler's will explode.

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First published in 1962 as a special edition of Civil War History journal, Civil War Prisons remains the standard on the topic. Editor Hesseltine tackles the historiography of northern and southern prisons during the American Civil War. He attempts to bring closure to the legendary northern myth that the Southern government did its best to "exterminate" Union prisoners by calling the effective northern war propaganda a wartime "psychosis." Furthermore, the author offers his analysis over the much debated prisoner exchange system, and comes down hard on the North, especially its government and General Ulysses S. Grant, for their questionable approach to this issue. For all the serious scholarship and popular writing devoted to the American Civil War, the topic of prisoner-of-war camps, more than any other, retains the feeling of horror and passion that characterized the war years themselves, "Men held captive under such circumstances, guilty of no offense other than the deplorable misfortune of having been captured by the enemy, suffer tremendous psychological punishment as well as physical hardship. Monotony, estrangement and fear, along with privation and often brutality, combine to create nearly as wretched a quality of human life as is imaginable. The sufferings of Civil War prisoners (are) documented in this re-issue of an early number of the journal Civil War HistoryRecounted there....are prisoner experiences in four Confederate installations: Andersonville,

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Georgia; Libby in Richmond, Virginia; Cahaba, Alabama; and Charleston, South Carolina. The remaining articles treat conditions in four Union prisons: Fort Warren in Boston harb? Rock Island, Illinois; Elmira, New York; and Johnson's Island on Lake Erie....in addition to some examples of sparkling and vivid prose, this volume contains a number of excellent photographs as well as an introduction by the late William B. Hesseltine...."--Kenneth B. Shover, The Historian

Unknown enemies-Questionable associates-Loyal friends-Beautiful women-Where will it lead? Nigel James Alasdair thought he had experienced bad days until August 24, 1970. That day ended with assassinations and the next began with decapitations with machetes, followed by car bombs, and ended with a rocket attack on his wife. Not your normal 24 hours. "I can't go to funerals all over the world. Ted, a terrorist didn't have anything to do with that car bomb, it was a message to me. I have now had four messages in one twenty four period. I suppose I am considered too dumb to catch on quickly." Jim Alasdair, following all leads starting from the US Virgin Islands determinedly traces his unknown enemy thru Belize, New Jersey, London, Tennessee, and Mexico. "I will find this evil and rid the world of it personally. I will kill him, I will." Alasdair swears he will with his strange collection or friends, enemies, and beautiful women. But will he?

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Captives in Blue, a study of Union prisoners in Confederate prisons, is a companion to Roger Pickenpaugh's earlier groundbreaking book Captives in Gray: The Civil War Prisons of the Union, rounding out his examination of Civil War prisoner of war facilities. In June of 1861, only a few weeks after the first shots at Fort Sumter ignited the Civil War, Union prisoners of war began to arrive in Southern prisons. One hundred and fifty years later Civil War prisons and the way prisoners of war were treated remain contentious topics. Partisans of each side continue to vilify the other for POW maltreatment. Roger Pickenpaugh's two studies of Civil War prisoners of war facilities complement one another and offer a thoughtful exploration of issues that captives taken from both sides of the Civil War faced. In Captives in Blue, Pickenpaugh tackles issues such as the ways the Confederate Army contended with the growing prison population, the variations in the policies and practices in the different Confederate prison camps, the effects these policies and practices had on Union prisoners, and the logistics of prisoner exchanges. Digging further into prison policy and practices, Pickenpaugh explores conditions that arose from conscious government policy decisions and conditions that were the product of local officials or unique local situations. One issue unique to Captives in Blue is the way Confederate prisons and policies dealt with African American Union soldiers. Black soldiers held captive in

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Confederate prisons faced uncertain fates; many former slaves were returned to their former owners, while others were tortured in the camps. Drawing on prisoner diaries, Pickenpaugh provides compelling first-person accounts of life in prison camps often overlooked by scholars in the field.

The first comprehensive bibliography on Alabama since 1898.

On a cold night in late April 1865, on the mighty Mississippi River just north of Memphis, Tennessee, scores of unsuspecting souls suddenly found themselves desperately struggling for their lives after the boilers exploded on the riverboat steamer Sultana. Although more lives were lost in this incident than would be lost on the Titanic in 1912, these homeward bound veterans of war have been nearly forgotten by the country they served so bravely. The author rectifies this oversight with his book-length treatment of the tragedy. Most of the men served in cavalry or infantry units from Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio, or cavalry units from Tennessee and Virginia. J2358HB - \$18.00

Originally published in 1892, *Loss of the Sultana and Reminiscences of Survivors* is a collection of first-hand accounts by those who lived to tell the story of perhaps the worst maritime disaster in U.S. history. On the Mississippi River just above Memphis at two o'clock on the morning of April 27, 1865, the steamboat Sultana, carrying over 2,400 passengers (it was licensed to carry only 356), exploded and sank. Over 1,700 people perished. Most of the

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passengers were Union soldiers recently released from Confederate prisons. Many were from East Tennessee. They had boarded at Vicksburg, where the longest siege of the war had resulted in Confederate surrender, ending the Vicksburg campaign. The soldiers, homeward bound from Andersonville and Cahaba Confederate prisons, had survived the terrors of battle, the loss of close comrades, physical and psychological wounds, the risky confinement of hospital, the humiliation of capture and surrender, escape and recapture, homesickness, boredom, the daily threat of death by starvation, disease, suicide, robbery, injury, or death by raiders. Chester D. Berry - one of the survivors - compiled facts, records, and personal accounts of other survivors, resulting in this compelling and profound testimony to the human spirit in the face of tragedy.

Lee Surrenders! "President Murdered!" "Booth Killed!" screamed the headlines of American newspapers in April 1865, leaving little room for mention of a maritime disaster that to this day is America's worst. On April 27, 1865, the Sultana, a 260-foot, wooden-hulled steamboat-smaller than the Titanic but carrying more passengers-exploded on the Mississippi River near Memphis, Tennessee. More than 1,800 men, mostly Union soldiers on their way home from Confederate prison camps, died. On board were over 2,400 passengers-six times the ship's legal capacity. Although jubilant about the war's end, most of the men were weakened by malnutrition and disease from their imprisonment at Andersonville and Cahaba. Hundreds who were not killed in the explosion drowned in the cold, swift waters of the muddy river. Because of the timing of the sinking, coverage of the Sultana's demise was scant, and the tragedy has passed almost unnoticed in the pages of American history. In this highly documented book, author Jerry Potter focuses on how greed, indifference, gross stupidity, and criminal

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misconduct reaching as far as the White House led to the overloading of the Sultana at Vicksburg. Such irresponsible conduct characterized the actions of President Lincoln, an entire chain of army command, and several profit-hungry civilians. This authoritative work contains abundant photographs and illustrations, as well as the most complete list of the ship's passengers available.

The steamship Sultana explosion remains the worst maritime disaster for the loss of life in US history. Most casualties were paroled prisoners of the war recently released from the notorious Confederate prisons in Andersonville, Georgia, and Cahaba, Alabama. After surviving the horrors of the Civil War and the atrocities of Southern prisoner camps, our American heroes were "Almost Home" when disaster struck the Sultana. Based on true events, we follow the journeys of Commander of Camp Sumter Prison - Henry Wirz, Sultana Steamship Captain - Cass Mason, and two young Ohio soldiers - Richard White and Thad Lewis through the war and explore their struggles, accomplishments, and growth as human beings. Each man is "Almost Home" when the tumultuous events of the war forever alter their lives.

In 1865 there were just 600 people living on Kelleys Island in Lake Erie. But this little island sent almost 100 of its men to fight in the Civil War. Through the soldier's letters, newspaper accounts and historical documents, the island's development can be explored. Her soldiers fought in the 3rd Ohio Cavalry, 24th, 38th, and 101st Ohio Infantries, the 1st Ohio Heavy Artillery and the 130th Ohio Volunteer Militia. Douglas Kelley was wounded at Libby prison, Simon Huntington was killed in action at Stone River and Jacob Rush was captured as a spy, sent to Cahaba prison where he helped lead an escape attempt and on his return home, was one of the few survivors of the Sultana explosion. This is life on an Ohio island, told by the

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islanders themselves.

At two o'clock in the morning on 27 April 1865, seven miles north of Memphis on the Mississippi, the sidewheel steamboat Sultana's boilers suddenly exploded. Legally registered to carry 376 people, the boat was packed with 2,100 recently released Union prisoners-of-war. Over 1,700 people died, making it the worst marine disaster in U.S. history. This book looks at the disaster through the eyes of the victims themselves. It offers a concise, minute-by-minute account on the cause of the explosion and its effect on different parts of the boat. To focus on the personal stories of the victims, both civilian and soldier, Gene Eric Salecker patiently collected material from hundreds of letters, period newspaper stories, and other sources. Readers are first introduced to victims while they are languishing in Confederate prisons and follow their release to an exchange camp outside of Vicksburg to their eventual crowding onto the Sultana. His knowledgeable narrative is interwoven with individual reminiscences, including those of the heroic rescuers. He offers unprecedented details about the captain's handling of the steamboat and corrects some long-held myths about the placement of the soldiers on the Sultana and newspaper coverage of the disaster. A large portion of the book covers rescue attempts, both successful and failed, and the aftermath of the disaster as it affected those involved. With its emphasis on the human-interest aspect of the Sultana, this book brings to the literature a critical point of view and much new research.

No one succeeds alone, and Ulysses S. Grant was no exception. From the earliest days of the Civil War to the heights of Grant's power in the White House, John A. Rawlins was ever at Grant's side. Yet Rawlins's role in Grant's career is often overlooked, and he barely received mention in Grant's own two-volume Memoirs. General John A. Rawlins: No Ordinary Man by

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Allen J. Ottens is the first major biography of Rawlins in over a century and traces his rise to assistant adjutant general and ultimately Grant's secretary of war. Ottens presents the portrait of a man who teamed with Grant, who submerged his needs and ambition in the service of Grant, and who at times served as the doubter who questioned whether Grant possessed the background to tackle the great responsibilities of the job. Rawlins played a pivotal role in Grant's relatively small staff, acting as administrator, counselor, and defender of Grant's burgeoning popularity. Rawlins qualifies as a true patriot, a man devoted to the Union and devoted to Grant. His is the story of a man who persevered in wartime and during the tumultuous years of Reconstruction and who, despite a ravaging disease that would cut short his blossoming career, grew to become a proponent of the personal and citizenship rights of those formerly enslaved. General John A. Rawlins will prove to be a fascinating and essential read for all who have an interest in leadership, the Civil War, or Ulysses S. Grant.

An account of the tragic sinking of the Civil War steamboat describes how it was carrying an overload of paroled Union soldiers, the boiler explosions that ended the lives of more than 1,700 passengers, and the experiences of its survivors.

During the Civil War, 410,000 people were held as prisoners of war on both sides. With resources strained by the unprecedented number of prisoners, conditions in overcrowded prison camps were dismal, and the death toll across Confederate and Union prisons reached 56,000 by the end of the war. In an attempt to improve prison conditions, President Lincoln issued General Orders 100, which would become the basis for future attempts to define the rights of prisoners, including the Geneva

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conventions. Meanwhile, stories of horrific prison experiences fueled political agendas on both sides, and would define the memory of the war, as each region worked aggressively to defend its prison record and to honor its own POWs. Robins and Springer examine the experience, culture, and politics of captivity, including war crimes, disease, and the use of former prison sites as locations of historical memory. Transforming Civil War Prisons introduces students to an underappreciated yet crucial aspect of waging war and shows how the legacy of Civil War prisons remains with us today.

The holding of prisoners of war has always been both a political and a military enterprise, yet the military prisons of the Civil War, which held more than four hundred thousand soldiers and caused the deaths of fifty-six thousand men, have been nearly forgotten. Now Lonnie R. Speer has brought to life the least-known men in the great struggle between the Union and the Confederacy, using their own words and observations as they endured a true "hell on earth." Drawing on scores of previously unpublished firsthand accounts, Portals to Hell presents the prisoners' experiences in great detail and from an impartial perspective. The first comprehensive study of all major prisons of both the North and the South, this chronicle analyzes the many complexities of the relationships among prisoners, guards, commandants, and government leaders.

After surviving the horrors of Castle Morgan, the infamous Confederate prison in

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Cahaba, two Union soldiers head home on the steamship Sultana. The ship explodes, leaving Zack Adams, a teenage medic, and his freed slave friend, Ben Williams, to drift aimlessly in the treacherous Mississippi River. They lodge on an island inhabited by a band of pirates and a tribe of Indians who hold them captive. Zack convinces the pirate leader, Captain Blaze, to spare their lives in exchange for services as a medic and personal servant. Fear penetrates every soul on the island, called Misery Island because it is haunted by ghosts that repeatedly attack as images of beasts and supernatural events. Eventually, Zack and Ben discover the ingenious source of the ghosts and use it to escape the island. Throughout the adventure, Zack struggles to mold his life on the premise of the beatitudes handed to him on the battlefield by his dying father.

One of the most intriguing and storied episodes of the Civil War, the 1862 Shenandoah Valley Campaign has heretofore been related only from the Confederate point of view. Moving seamlessly between tactical details and analysis of strategic significance, Peter Cozzens presents a balanced, comprehensive account of a campaign that has long been romanticized but little understood. He offers new interpretations of the campaign and the reasons for Stonewall Jackson's success, demonstrates instances in which the mythology that has come to shroud the campaign has masked errors on Jackson's part, and provides the first detailed appraisal of Union leadership in the Valley Campaign, with some surprising conclusions.

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