



THE EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MUSEUM of EAST TENNESSEE HISTORY
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For Immediate Release

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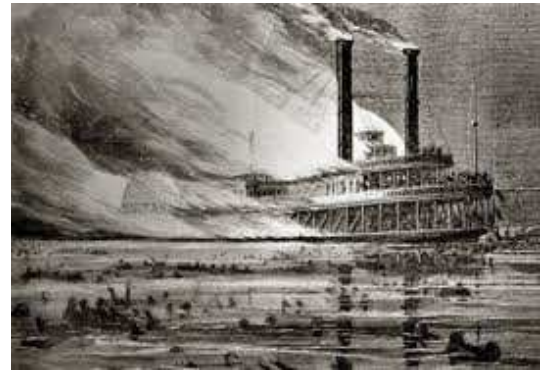
Loss of the Steamer Sultana: America's Worst Maritime Disaster
A Brown Bag Lecture by Norman Shaw

PROGRAM: *Loss of the Steamer Sultana: America's Worst Maritime Disaster, A Brown Bag Lecture by Norman Shaw*

DATE: Noon, Wednesday, September 23, 2015

LOCATION: East Tennessee History Center
601 South Gay Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

ADMISSION: FREE | Attendees are encouraged to bring a "brown bag" lunch



(Knoxville, TN) April, 27, 1865, on the Mississippi River near Memphis, the boilers of the steamer *Sultana* exploded. The result was the most deadly maritime disaster in American history, with 1,800 souls lost by fire and drowning. The vessel was transporting home recently released Union POWs, including many East Tennesseans, from the infamous Confederate prisons at Andersonville, Georgia, and Cahaba, Alabama. In a Brown Bag lecture on Wednesday, September 23, Norman Shaw will describe the greed, human error, and bad fortune that contributed to the tragedy, the stories of some of the men, and will give a brief account of the continuing work of the Association of Sultana Descendants and Friends.

Retired Knoxville attorney Norman Shaw founded the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable in 1983, where he has since served three terms as president and remains active today. Shaw also formed the Association of Sultana Descendants and Friends, a national organization with more than 200 members, and he has planned most of its 26 annual reunions. He is a member of the Civil War Trust and the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association.

The lecture program is sponsored by 21st Mortgage and is free and open to the public. The lecture will begin at noon at the East Tennessee History Center, 601 S. Gay Street, Knoxville. Guests are invited to bring a "Brown Bag" lunch and enjoy the lecture. Soft drinks will be available. For more information on the lecture, exhibitions, or museum hours, call 865-215-8824 or visit the website at www.EastTNHistory.org.

End Release