



February 2017

## ***License Plate Goes to East Tennessee - 400 Miles from the Site of a Civil War Disaster***



A battlefield preservationist visits the Sultana Monument - Knoxville's memorial to America's deadliest maritime disaster.



A crowd of paroled prisoners covers the deck of the Sultana a day before her destruction. More died in this tragedy on the Mississippi River than in the sinking of the Titanic years later.

S.S. Sultana was a double decker side-wheel steamboat. Although designed with a capacity of only 376 passengers, the boat was loaded at Vicksburg with more than 2200 Union POWs released from prison camps in Alabama and Georgia, heading home at the end of the War. At 2 AM on April 27, 1865, three of the boat's four boilers exploded causing the boat to burn and sink near Memphis. Hundreds of the men who died and dozens who survived were members of the Third Tennessee (U.S.) Cavalry and residents of the Knoxville area. In 1916, Sultana survivors unveiled the only monument to the victims in the Mt. Olive Cemetery on Old Maryville Pike in Knoxville.

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the State***

Not a member of the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association? After purchasing a Civil War Battlefield specialty plate, you are eligible to receive a complimentary 1-year membership. Visit [tcwpa.org/license-plate](http://tcwpa.org/license-plate) for more details.

Share a photo of your Civil War license plate at a favorite Tennessee battlefield. Email your photo and the name of the battlefield to [info@tcwpa.org](mailto:info@tcwpa.org). Support battlefield preservation and help tell the stories of Tennessee's Civil War history.



You can purchase the license plate at your County Clerk's office for \$36.00 plus your regular registration fees. Proceeds from the sale of the plate will help protect and interpret important battlefields in Tennessee. For more information, visit: [tcwpa.org/license-plate](http://tcwpa.org/license-plate)

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***The Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association preserves and interprets Tennessee's Civil War Battlefields and their contributing landscapes for present and future generations.***

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