

Amos W. Fairchild, Private, Co K, 65 OH Infantry, US

- 1839 Born to Amos and Mary Fairchild in Hancock County, OH.
- 1850 July 31: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Cass, Hancock County, OH showed ten-year-old Amos living with his parents and siblings. His father, Amos, was a farmer.
- 1861 November 14: Fairchild's brother, Henry, enlisted in the U.S. Army and mustered into Co. K, 65th OH Infantry.
- November 30: Enlisted in the U.S. Army and mustered into the same company and regiment as his brother.
- 1865 September 20: Brother, Corp. Henry J. Fairchild, was captured at the Battle of Chickamauga, GA. He was held at Libby, Danville and Andersonville prisons.
- 1864 November 30: Captured at the Battle of Franklin and taken to prison.
- 1865 April 27: Fairchild was among the soldiers on the steamship Sultana when it exploded on the Mississippi River as they were being transported North after their release from prison.

The Sultana Horror.

From one of the survivors of *Sultana* disaster, we learn some additional facts in relation to that frightful tragedy. Of the soldiers on board, the principal number was made up as follows: Eighteenth Michigan, 270; 3d Tennessee cavalry, 360; 9th Indiana cavalry, 181; 65th Ohio, 85; 102d Ohio, 207; 105th Ohio, 100; 115th Ohio, 125. The remainder were scattered among several regiments and States. They were the last of the parole camp at Vicksburg.

The boat was in bad order, her boilers being leaky and patched, and accommodations not extensive. The first troops marched on board were 860 Ohio soldiers and 70 from West Virginia. These filled the boat more than comfortably full, and the officers of the boat said they had enough on board

but the Post Quartermaster said that every one of the crowd should go, and nearly a thousand more were accordingly put on. We regret that we do not possess the name of that Quartermaster. There should be hemp twisted for his neck if the facts are as stated.

After the boat was loaded, about one hundred sick were taken off, as there was no place for them to lie down. There was not enough room for the soldiers all to lie at full length. They were crowded in a cramped condition, in every part of the steamer, like negroes in the hold of a slaveship. The fuel of the steamer was wood, but at night a little coal was used to prevent the sparks burning the men, as they slept on the hurricane deck.

The horrors of the scene following the explosion have already been described in these columns, but our informant says no description could do justice to the terrible scene.—[Cleveland Herald.

¹ The Highland Weekly News, Hillsboro, OH, Thursday, 25 May 1865, pg. 2 (accessed newspaper.com)