



**Volume 57, No 5**  
**May, 2017**

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# Battle Cry

Founded 1961,  
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table  
P.O. BOX 254702  
Sacramento, CA 95865-4702  
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## President's Message

Summer has arrived.

This is the first year in my experience that we will not be involved in the Gibson Ranch re-enactments. We have spent many years guiding the school classes through the splendid educational experiences the students receive from their dedicated teachers and it is a shame that this year will be an exception.

Our Planning Committee under Paul Ruud's leadership and our Board Members' assistance continues. Having attended many of these annual Conferences all over the State, I heartily encourage our usually strong support of these excellent programs by our members attendance. This year's group of splendid speakers are well-known for their scholarly contributions to Civil War history and we are fortunate to have them share their wisdom with us.

Many thanks to Bernie Quinn for sharing his extensive knowledge of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain over the past two months.

On May 10th, we will welcome Joe Maxwell who will discuss the Battle of the CSS Alabama and the USS Kearsage. I'll look forward to seeing you there.

And it's only fitting to thank Silver Williams for her hard work finding speakers for our monthly meetings. Having someone take on the job of keeping us informed and entertained is a difficult task, and she continues to do beautifully. Thank you, Silver!

**Don Hayden, Vice President**

**MINUTES**  
**SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**Wednesday, April 12, 2017**  
**HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO**

**ATTENDANCE – 21**

**MEMBERS – 19:** Don Hayden, Vice President, George W. Foxworth, Treasurer, Barbara Leone, Secretary, Roy Bishop, Alice Corley, Monica Foxworth, Arnd Gartner, Alan Geiken, Ron Grove, Nina Henley, Wayne Henley, Chris Highsmith, Dennis Kohlmann (MAL), Ron Perisho, Bernie Quinn, John Rice, Paul Ruud (MAL), Nancy Samuelson, Nick Scivoletto, Richard Sickert, Raymond Valdez, Michael Werner, John Zasso.

**GUESTS – 2:** Jay Robertson, Don A. Zajic.

1. The meeting was called to order by Don Hayden and he led the Pledge. John Zasso conducted the raffle. Don introduced club member Ron Perisho who will be at the West Coast Conference presenting his 3D photos of the Civil War. Dennis Kohlmann talked about Bowdoin College, Chamberlain's alma mater known for educating wealthy elite conservatives. Sons of many slave-holding Southerners were sent there.
2. Bernie Quinn concluded his talk on Joshua Chamberlain now Commander of the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine. His troops appreciated how he cared for them. He was he a good tactician who lived as they did and made sure the belongings of a deceased soldier made it back to his family.
3. He contracted pneumonia in November 1863 and malaria caused him to be hospitalized until April 1864. After promotion to Brigade Commander, the first action he saw was Cold Harbor. In mid-June, the Union Army was before Petersburg. This was a preview of WW I without machine guns: A profusion of rifle and artillery fire and trenches of all sorts. The barbed wire of the day could be moved as needed.
4. On June 18, Chamberlain attacked a (disputed) salient. He had scouted the Battlefield prior to the fight and advised against it but on orders proceeded. As he raised his sword a bullet shot through his right hip exiting out his left, breaking bones and slicing internal organs. His horse was shot so he continued on foot; everyone around him was down. He raised the fallen colors and was shot. He continued to stand using his sword as a prop so his troops would not break. On his knees he remained upright, encouraging his men. Eventually, he fell and was taken to an aid station. His brother, Thomas, got two surgeons who performed an unprecedented surgery giving him a chance at life. Grant gave him a rare battlefield promotion. He expected to die but made it to an actual hospital where his wife and others tried to persuade him to leave the service. But he had committed to 3 years and would serve 3 years.
5. In November 1864, before he was fully well, he was assigned two regiments each consisted of 1,000 raw troops. By December 1864, he was hospitalized and out of the War until the Appomattox Campaign. On March 29, 1865, he earned the name "Bloody Chamberlain" at the Battle of Lewis's Farm. He was leading a charge when a bullet pierced his horse's neck, sliced his arm and entered his chest, passed through a sheath of orders, hit the frame of his wife's picture, went under the skin around a rib, and out his back. He fell in a sitting position and appeared to be dead, soaked in blood. Regaining consciousness, he got back on his horse, roused his troops, and drove the Rebels back. He continued on foot after his horse fell and was surrounded by the enemy. In his bloody disheveled condition, he convinced them he was a Rebel officer and led them to capture by Union troops.
6. While still quite disabled on March 31 at the Battle of White Oak Road, the V Corps was in peril. Rather than remain in place as ordered, he convinced his superior to let him charge and thus break the rebels.
7. Bernie feels the Battle of Five Forks is Chamberlain's greatest achievement. Analyzing the situation and telling no one he attacked through a large gap, allowing Griffin's Division to follow and Crawford cut the road. Five Forks essentially sealed the fate of the Army of Northern Virginia.
8. Shortly after Five Forks and the Appomattox Campaign, negotiations for surrender began. Chamberlain had the honor of presiding at the surrender of the Confederate Army.
9. Major General Chamberlain was a 4-time Governor of Maine, President of Bowdoin College for 12 years, and received the Medal of Honor in 1893. He died the "The Lion of the Union" at age 85 in February 1914.
10. The next Board of Directors' Meeting is Wednesday, May 10, 2017, 10:00 AM, at Brookfield's.

**Barbara Leone, Secretary**

**Treasurer's Report**

The cash balance following the April 12th meeting was \$5,697.44. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$44.00.

**George W. Foxworth, Treasurer**

# Coming Programs for 2017

Date	Speaker	Topic
May 10th	Joe Maxwell	"The Battle of the CSS Alabama & USS Kearsage"
June 14th	Marty Cain	"General Lewis Addison Armistead"
July 12th	Larry Tagg	"The Generals of Gettysburg"
August 9th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
September 12th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined
October 11th	To Be Determined	To Be Determined

## **2017 Membership**

The 2017 membership renewal is due as of January 1, 2017. The dues are \$20.00 and you can renew at a monthly meeting or send to the Treasurer through the mail. For all checks, make them payable to **Sacramento Civil War Round Table** and send them to

George W. Foxworth  
9463 Salishan Court  
Sacramento, CA 95826-5233

Remember, you can also pay at any monthly meeting.

## **NEWSLETTER CIVIL WAR ARTICLES**

Civil War articles/book reviews are welcome. The submission deadline is the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month for that month's **Battle Cry**. However, you can submit articles at anytime. Please submit your items in Microsoft Word or regular email to:

[gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net)

Do not submit scanned files since I may need to edit files to combine the **Battle Cry**.

The **Battle Cry** is the monthly newsletter of the Sacramento CWRT. Submissions are subject to availability of space and size limitations. Submissions do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization or the Editor. The official address of this organization is: Sacramento Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 254702, Sacramento, CA 95865-4702. <http://www.sacramentocwrt.org> is the web site address. Check the web for past newsletter editions and information about the group.

## **GIBSON RANCH 2017**

Per the National Civil War Association (NCWA), there will be no re-enactment this year. However, they are planning to return to Gibson Ranch in 2018.



## *C.S.S. Alabama* versus *U.S.S. Kearsarge*

The *USS Kearsarge* sank the *CSS Alabama* on June 19, 1864, after a 70-minute battle off the coast of France. Since its construction in England and furtive purchase by the Confederacy in August 1861, the *Alabama* had: sailed 75,000 miles as a “raider” (some say “pirate”); been at sea 534 of her 657 days; captured or sank 69 unarmed merchant vessels valued at \$6.5 million; taken 2,000 prisoners; never visited a North American port; fought only one other battle against an armed opponent. That battle was with the antiquated, converted gunboat *U.S.S. Hatteras*, sunk near Galveston on January 11, 1863. This was an enviable record for a pirate ship, but not so for a war ship.

The *Alabama* (Captain Semmes) entered the Cherbourg harbor on June 11 for repairs and recoaling. Hearing of this, the *Kearsarge* (Captain Winslow) blockaded the harbor; whereupon Semmes announced that he would fight his way out! The reasons for his decision to do battle are unclear, however, since the odds were rather good that the rebel vessel could easily have run out of the harbor on a dark and foggy night without an encounter. Was his act of bravado due to a troubled conscience, or was it for résumé enhancement purposes?

The table of comparison and photos show the many similarities between the two ships, but there were two significant differences unknown to Semmes at the time. The federal ship was retrofitted with chain link armor, and it had heavier guns. *Kearsarge's* 11-inch Dahlgren smooth bore cannons could fire a 190-pound ball with awesome power and reasonable accuracy over the 700 to 400 yard range at which the battle was fought. Two other reasons that may also have contributed to the one-sidedness of the battle were the very poor marksmanship of the *Alabama's* international crew (though officered by Americans), as measured by number of shots fired (370) versus hits (38) and the possibly related gunpowder quality problems.

Semmes' later stated that the powder problems might have resulted from the ships'

seawater-to-freshwater distillation device that vented some steam into the adjacent powder magazine. In other words, “He didn't keep his powder dry.” Or perhaps it was because his powder had deteriorated over time for lack of use, since not much would have been needed to capture and burn unarmed ships.

The *Kearsarge*, assisted by two harbor pilot boats, rescued most of the *Alabama's* surviving crewmembers and a few officers; while Semmes, most officers and a few crewmembers were rescued by the *Deerhound*, a private English steam yacht which carried them directly to England and permitting their escape. This latter act created considerable irate from Captain Winslow.

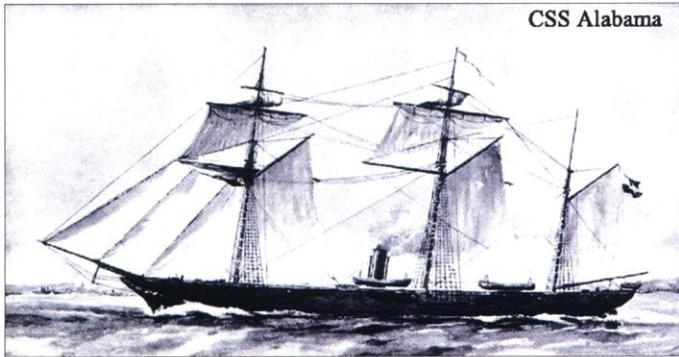
The Lincoln administration considered the *Kearsarge's* triumph a sweet moral and political victory over the British, who had built and armed the *Alabama*, as well as the Confederacy. Captain Winslow was voted the “Thanks of Congress” and was promoted to Commodore. He retired as Rear Admiral in 1873.

Captain Semmes also returned as a hero, notwithstanding that he had lost his ship. He was promoted to Rear Admiral and in February 1865 was given command of the CSA James River Squadron, consisting of the iron clads *Virginia II*, *Fredericksburg*, and *Richmond*, plus escort gunboats. On the morning of April 3, upon the evacuation of the city of Richmond, he ordered the iron clads then in the vicinity of Drewry's Bluff eight miles down river to be blown up. Forming their crews as infantry units he joined Johnston's army in North Carolina. Upon surrendering, he signed his parole as Rear Admiral and Brigadier General, his final opportunity for résumé embellishment. Also, perhaps, not to have ended up at the end of a rope as a pirate!

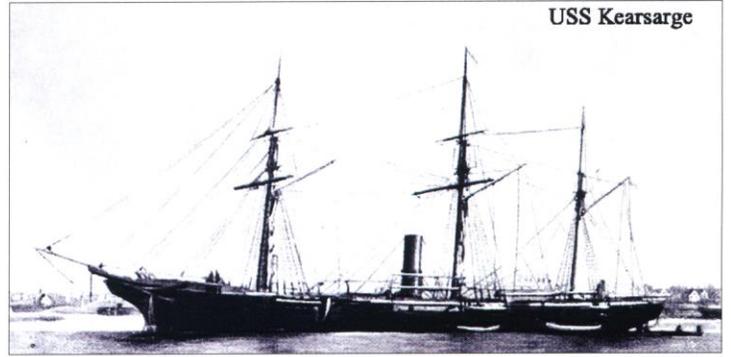
In December 1865, Raphael Semmes was imprisoned while Union authorities considered charging him with treason and piracy. This was not done, however, and he was released in April 1866. He became a lawyer, with presumed expertise in maritime law!

**Bob Williams: 3-07-03 rev. 4-17-14**

# CSS Alabama versus USS Kearsarge Graphics Page



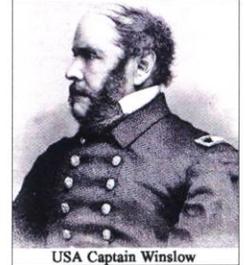
CSS Alabama



USS Kearsarge



CSA Captain Semmes

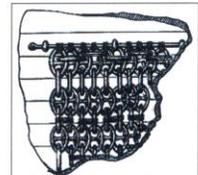


USA Captain Winslow

## U.S.S. Kearsarge and C.S.S. Alabama

### A Comparison

Item	Kearsarge	Alabama
Type:	Steam Sloop	Steam Sloop
Built:	Portsmouth, Me. 1861	Liverpool, U.K. 1862
Tonnage:	1031	1050
Length, overall, ft.:	232	220
Length, at water line, ft.:	199	210
Beam, ft.:	33	32
Depth, ft.:	16½	17
Draft, ft.:	14	14
Engines, two each at:	400 h.p.	300 h.p.
Maximum speed, knots:	13	10
Armament:	7 guns: 2-11in. Dahlgren pivots, 1-30pdr rifle, 4-32pdr S.B.	8 guns: 1-68pdr pivot, 1-100pdr rifle pivot, 6-32pdr S.B.
Armor:	Iron chain sheets	None
Crew:	19 officers; 144 men	25 officers; 148 men
Captain:	John Winslow	Raphael Semmes
Executive Officer:	James Thornton	John Kell
Killed and wounded:	3w	26k, 21w
Shots fired: 6-19-1864	173	370

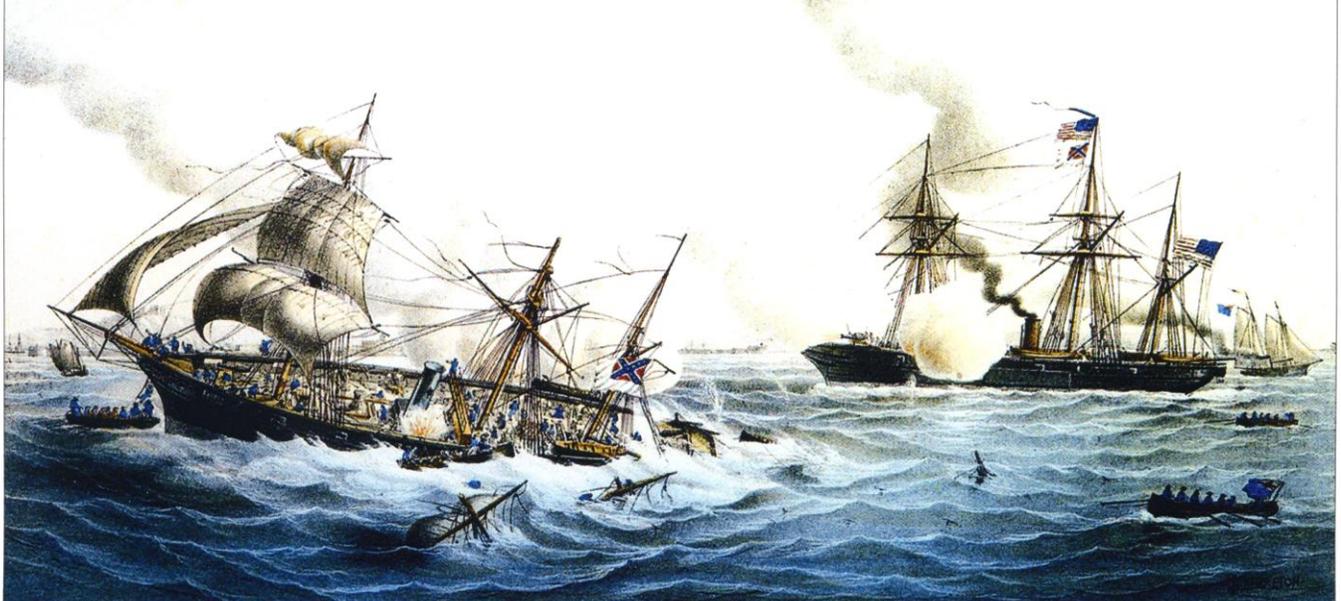


Chain Armor Type  
Used on USS Kearsarge

References: Navy OR's S1V3, S2V1, Battles and Leaders V4

R.A. Williams 3-01-03

## CSS Alabama and USS Kearsarge off the Cherbourg Coast 19 June 1864



# General John Bell Hood

John Bell Hood had a useless left arm and his right leg had been amputated. But when he took up residence in New Orleans, Louisiana, he had every reason to believe in a bright future for himself there. New Orleans had been spared the worst ravages of the Civil War. It was home to other Confederate Generals--James Longstreet, P.G.T. Beauregard, Simon Buckner, and Joe Wheeler. And John had enough money in his pocket to start his new life---\$10,000 borrowed from friends in his home State of Kentucky.

Before long, Hood was established as a cotton broker and was the President of the Life Association of America insurance business. In 1866, he met the beautiful Anna Marie Hennen, a native of New Orleans who had been educated in Paris.

With Simon Buckner as his best man, John and Anna Marie were married on April 30, 1868. The Hoods purchased a beautiful home in the Garden District on the corner of Camp and Third Street. They proceeded to have eleven children in ten years, including three sets of twins. There were eight girls and three boys.

Between the years 1870-1878, Hood prospered. His business was going well and his family was healthy. In the Summer of 1878, everything changed. Yellow fever swept through New Orleans killing over four thousand people. The disease found its way to Memphis, Tennessee. The twenty one year old son of Jefferson Davis was one of five thousand victims who died.

In Louisiana, families who had the means retreated inland to escape the disease. The Hoods fled to the home of Anna Marie's family in Hammond, LA. But the disease continued its deadly swath through the streets of the Crescent City. The Cotton Exchange closed their doors. The city was quarantined. All but two of the local insurance companies went bankrupt. Eventually, the Hoods returned home but they had lost everything. Their home was mortgaged to the hilt.

On August 20, 1879, yellow fever was reported in the home of the Musson family directly across the street from the Hood home. The next day, just one month after giving birth, forty-two year-old Anna Marie fell ill. She died four days later, on August 24, 1879. Hood and his eldest daughter, ten year old Lydia, both felt the first symptoms of yellow fever on August 27. Lydia died on August 29. Hood was advised that he could not survive. Totally without funds, he requested that his ten surviving children, all under the age of ten years, be taken care of by his beloved Texas Brigade. P.G.T. Beauregard would be in charge of raising the money.

John Bell Hood died on August 30, 1879. He was forty eight years old. Beauregard paid for Hood's burial out of his own pocket.

During this smaller yellow fever outbreak, only eight people died. Sadly, three were members of the Hood family. John, Anna Marie, and Lydia were buried in Lafayette Cemetery #1, not far from their home. In 1927, they were reinterred in the Hennen family crypt in Metairie, LA.



Anna Marie's mother, in poor health, could not care for the orphans. She died the following year. The ten children were divided between seven families and sent to live in Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, Kentucky, and New York. Anna, one of the twins, died in 1880 at one year old.



A photograph of the orphans, "Wards of the South," was published and used to raise money for their education. The empty chair in the picture represented the dead child, Lydia Hood. The proceeds from the picture, the money earned from Hood's posthumous memoirs, and the contributions from the Texas Brigade, raised a total of \$30,000. The money was divided between the surviving nine children when they reached the age of twenty one.



# 2017 West Coast Civil War Conference

Sponsored by Sacramento Civil War Round Table

## Lesser Known Civil War Battles

November 10 - 12, 2017, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sacramento

### Our Speakers are:

**William C. Davis:** Retired in 2013 as Professor of History and Executive Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies at Virginia Tech University. He is the author or editor of more than 60 books on the Civil War and Southern history, and consultant and commentator for A&E's "Civil War Journal," and several other television and film productions.

**Dr. Brian S. Wills:** Director of the Center for the Civil War Era at Kennesaw State University. Dr. Wills is a nationally recognized Civil War historian and author of books on Civil War topics.

**Thomas Cartwright:** Is a leading authority and author on the Battle of Franklin who conducted tours of Western Theater battlefields for 20 years. Appeared on many TV shows and is a frequent CWRT speaker.

**Jim Stanbery:** Professor of Political Science and History at Los Angeles Harbor College, and speaker at the West Coast Civil War Conference for more than twenty years. Is a frequent CWRT speaker.

**Theodore Savas:** Is an attorney, adjunct college instructor, award-winning author, Partner and Managing Director of Savas Beatie LLC. He specializes in military history and the American Civil War.

**Ron Perisho:** A member of the Sacramento CWRT and Center for Civil War Photography (CCWP), Co-Editor of "Gettysburg in 3-D," and a Soils Engineer who has collected Civil War Photography for 30 years.

The Conference cost is \$200 per person which includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner, as well as all sessions. A full hotel breakfast buffet is included for guests staying at the hotel.

Partial day attendance: Friday Only \$50; Saturday Only \$125; Saturday Dinner and Lecture Only \$50; Sunday Only \$25.

There will be a no-host bar set-up Friday and Saturday evenings for your enjoyment before dinner.

For more information, contact Paul Ruud at 530-886-8806 or by contacting [www.sacramentocwrt.com](http://www.sacramentocwrt.com) where information and registration forms will be available.

Room reservations are available by calling Crowne Plaza directly 877-504-0054 or [www.crowneplaza.com](http://www.crowneplaza.com)  
[Crowne Plaza Hotel](#) has rooms set aside for us at \$124 per night, plus tax. Please mention the Conference.

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Please print this page, fill it out, and return the form with your check for your registration. Make checks payable to: **Sacramento CWRT** and mail to: George W. Foxworth, 9463 Salishan Court, Sacramento, CA 95826-5233.

### Name / Organization as you want it on your badge (Please Print):

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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