



**Volume 57, No 7
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Battle Cry

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

We are halfway through the year doing our best to bear a hot summer. For the first time in my memory, we failed to gather for the annual reenactment at Gibson Ranch. It has been rumored that it shall return. We'll see.

We do continue to hold our monthly Round Table meetings and once again will sponsor the 2017 Annual West Coast Civil War Conference in November. Please see the announcement and registration form posted in each month's Battle Cry and join us for a splendid educational experience with an outstanding faculty.

Silver Williams stepped in last month and gave an outstanding and informative talk. Our July speaker is our old friend, Larry Tagg, who was previously a speaker at our 2011 Annual West Coast Civil War Conference. Larry has authored two outstanding books to my knowledge, "The Generals of Gettysburg" and "The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln." Both received high acclaim.

Please join us on July 12th for what I am certain will prove to be an outstanding presentation.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Don Hayden, Vice President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, June 14, 2017
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE – 34

MEMBERS – 26: Don Hayden, Vice President, George Foxworth, Treasurer, Barbara Leone, Secretary, Silver Williams, Program Director, Roy Bishop, Marsha Cain, Monica Foxworth, Alan Geiken, Nina Henley, Wayne Henley, Chris Highsmith, Rebecca Highsmith, Wayne Imberi, Jane Jackson, James Juanitas, Horst Penning, Bernie Quinn, John Rice, Nancy Samuelson, Nick Scivoletto, Richard Sickert, Roxanne Spizzirri, Ray Valdez, Michael Werner, Maxine Wollen, John Zasso.

GUESTS – 8: Esther Boeck, Larry Marvin, Judge Lawrence Marvin, Mrs. Lawrence Marvin, Dennis Pellon, Peggy Pellon, Larry Spizzirri, Richard Spizzirri.

1. The meeting was called to order by Don Hayden and he led the Pledge. John Zasso conducted the raffle. Silver Williams spoke about "The Rebel and the Rose and the Lost Confederate Gold." Two historians researched the story the two families took great effort to conceal.
2. The Rebel was a Confederate officer, James Semple, a clandestine figure of whom very little is known. When James' mother married George Semple, they had combined property of 1,000 acres in Virginia. She died shortly after James was born. Two years later, George died. James' uncle assumed his care. When James was 20, he married President John Tyler's 18 year-old daughter Letitia. It was an unhappy marriage and James abandoned her. Considerable money was involved and to cover the scandal, Tyler arranged for Semple to be a United States Navy purser. Semple was related to Tyler by marriage and he became Tyler's nephew when he married Letitia.
3. Julia Gardiner, the Rose, was from a very wealthy family whose home still exists on Long Island. Julia's behavior was not what was expected of proper young ladies. She posed for an ad for a store selling "cheap goods" titling her the Rose of Long Island. Her scandalized parents took her on a tour of Europe. However, a poem was written and she was famous at 19. When they returned, Julia went to Washington, DC with her father, a senator from New York. They met President Tyler whose first wife was very ill and his daughter Letitia who hosted for him. Julia returned to DC after Tyler's wife died and he pursued her. Julia and her father cruised with the President on the Princeton. It's peacemaker gun exploded killing Gardiner. Julia fainted and Tyler caught her. In June 1844, Tyler married Julia, 30 years his junior. She was in the White House eight months. The Tylers retired to Sherwood Forest with his seven children. Julia blended with all except Leticia.
4. When the Civil War began, Semple, a Virginian, joined the Confederacy. Julia moved to VA; she was a Southerner at heart, and the family had property and slaves.
5. On April 2, 1865, Davis finally accepted he had to leave Richmond. The Treasury was estimated by a senior teller to be less than \$600,000. After four weeks, the Treasury train ended in Washington, Georgia. By the time the Confederacy acknowledged defeat, about \$86,000 remained.
6. Semple was to get the gold coin to Liverpool so Davis could keep fighting. Edward Tidball and William Howell worked with him. When they got to Augusta, GA, the risk was too great and the money was divided. Howell got \$25,000, Tidball \$27,000, and Semple took \$34,000 to Savannah, GA. Again it was impossible to sail. He gave some money to friends and went to Montreal. Tidball built a \$31,000 mansion in Winchester VA; 140 years later, new owners found a note by Tidball in a wall stating he had \$27,000 in gold coins. Semple was not captured and he assumed the name of Allen S. James.
7. Julia Tyler wanted to get to her family's Long Island estate. She refused to take the oath and worried about the younger children. She appealed to Semple to help her and to sell her cotton. This required running the blockade to Bermuda twice.
8. James was alone, ill, and he wanted a family. He sent a note in October 1865 asking to visit Mrs. Tyler on Staten Island and she agreed. Over time, the relationship grew. In March 1866, his health deteriorating, he left her important papers and a signed blank check for his bank account. He declared his love but her feelings are unknown. By the end of 1866, he had loaned her \$6,000. Did it come from Confederate funds? He could not have what he wanted but Julia provided a semblance of a family and he accepted that.
9. The next Board of Directors' Meeting is Thursday, July 6, 2017, at 11:30 AM, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Barbara Leone, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The cash balance following the June 14th meeting was \$5,856.83. Thanks to John Zasso, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$47.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2017

| Date | Speaker | Topic |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| July 12th | Larry Tagg | "The Generals of Gettysburg" |
| August 9th | Richard Sickert | "J. M. Chapman Affair" |
| September 12th | Nancy B. Samuelson | "Three Brothers From Missouri" |
| October 11th | To Be Determined | To Be Determined |
| November 8th | To Be Determined | To Be Determined |
| December 13th | 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 1st 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

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.

Amos Luther Bowsher

Amos L. Bowsher, a Union veteran of the Civil War, moved to Sacramento in the years after the War. He helped build our great city and is buried here.



AMOS L. BOWSHER
Co. B, 63d Ohio Inf. and
Co. E, 1st U. S. Cav.



Amos Bowsher was born in Ohio and enlisted in the 63rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry in 1861. He fought in the Battles of Island Number Ten, Iuka and Corinth, Mississippi, where he was captured and held prisoner for four months. After his release, Bowsher transferred to the 1st U.S. Cavalry and fought in the Battles of Kelly's Ford and Brandy Station, Virginia (the largest cavalry battle ever fought on American soil), and Gettysburg. Bowsher was wounded and captured soon after Gettysburg. After his release from Libby Prison, Bowsher rejoined his Regiment and fought at Mine Run, Spotsylvania, the Wilderness, Cold Harbor, and Appomattox, among other engagements.

After Lee's surrender, the 1st U.S. Cavalry was transferred to California by way of the Isthmus of Panama. Bowsher was discharged from the Army on 10 September 1865 while in Panama, but proceeded on to California. After a year visiting Russian Siberia, he settled in Sacramento where he was employed as a telegraph lineman and later as a locomotive fireman and engineer for Southern Pacific. Bowsher was present at the joining of the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads on May 10, 1869, at Promontory Summit, Utah. In 1872, he married Miss Della Cassidy, and of their union, four children were born; Joseph, Robert, Mary, and Laura. He retired from the Southern Pacific in March 1911. Bowsher died in 1932.

Submitted by - Sebastian Nelson (sebnelson@gmail.com)

Sergeant Amos Humiston

Thirty three year old Amos Humiston might have spent eternity in a grave marked "Unknown Soldier" if his dying instinct hadn't been to reach out and clutch the ambrotype of his three children and gaze at it until he died.

Shot on July 1, 1863 near the spot where The Battle of the Brickyard took place in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Amos' body lay for days on the corner of York and Stratton Streets in a residential area. There was no identification of any kind on his body. Eventually, the ambrotype ended up in the hands of Dr. John Francis Bourns, a volunteer physician from Philadelphia. He began a newspaper campaign, describing the image of the children under the headline "Whose Father Was He?" One paper eventually made its way to the small town of Portville, New York. Philinda Humiston was sure the dead soldier was her husband and the father of her three children, Frederick, age four, Alice, age six, and Franklin, age eight. When Dr. Bourns sent her a copy of the photo, Philinda definitely identified the image as the one she had sent her husband, Sergeant Amos Humiston, of the 154th New York "Hardtack" Regiment.



Though Amos had been a harness maker and partner in a harness shop, Philinda had worked as a seamstress to make ends meet. In the picture of

the children, you can see Philinda's frugality. Frank's shirt and Alice's dress are made from the same material. With Amos' death, Philinda was in dire straits for money. Dr. Bourns started raising funds for an orphanage for the children of slain soldiers.

On November, 20, 1866, The National Soldier's Orphan's Homestead opened its doors at 785 Baltimore Street in Gettysburg, PA. Philinda was invited to work there as a matron and have her children reside with her. The first few years went well. By 1869, the orphanage was dangerously overcrowded. In 1870, the facility was enlarged and a new matron, Rosa Carmichael, was hired as Superintendent. Almost immediately, terrible rumors began to circulate in town. The children were seen in dirty clothes, without shoes, their hair uncombed. Girls were made to wear boys' clothing as punishment. It was said that no teaching was going on and an older boy of nineteen years enforced discipline by hitting the younger children with a stick. The orphans were no longer allowed to decorate the graves of their soldier fathers with wreaths on Memorial Day.

Arrested on June 11, 1876, Mrs. Carmichael was indicted on three counts of battery and assault. She was found guilty on one count, fined twenty dollars, and allowed to return to work. But new allegations continued to mount up. A five year-old boy was caged in a cold outhouse overnight. A young girl had to stand on a desk in one position until she collapsed. Small children were forced to stand in barrels of cold water. Other children had their heads held under water by older boys until they were allowed up, gasping for air. Rumors spread that children were being shackled to the walls in the basement, which was known as "the pit." Older "stick boys" continued to enforce discipline. Rosa Carmichael was arrested again, fined, and given twenty four hours to get out of town. She packed up and fled and was never seen or heard from again. Dr. Bourns, who had raised money and helped found the orphanage, was accused of embezzling money from its accounts and of using the orphans as servants in his home. Some people whispered that "Mrs." Carmichael had been his mistress. The orphanage could not survive the scandal. Donations stopped and the Orphan's Homestead closed its doors at the end of 1877.

Philinda had left her job in 1869 when she entered into a marriage of convenience to a retired clergyman twenty four years her senior. By marrying, she lost her \$8 a month widow's pension. Her children were left in the orphanage until 1871 when her second husband was able to file and receive money from Amos' pension for them. The children were in the hands of Mrs. Carmichael for about a year and a half.

Frank Humiston grew up to become a much loved doctor. He died in 1912 at the age of fifty seven due to complications from gallstone surgery. Alice never married. She lived a nomadic life and eventually lost all her money in the stock market crash of 1929. In 1933, she died tragically when her skirt caught fire from a heater's open flame. Fred became a successful grain merchant, dying of heart disease at age fifty nine in 1918.

Sergeant Amos Humiston is buried in the Soldiers National Cemetery in Gettysburg, PA., Grave 14, Row B, New York Section. In 1993, he became the only individual enlisted man to have a monument dedicated to him in Gettysburg. The monument, a plaque with a portrait of Amos and the three children, stands on North Stratton Street, near the spot where Amos' body was found.



Many of the Gettysburg Ghost Tours tell horrific stories of the children who were mistreated, tortured, and some say buried, in the basement of the orphanage. The story of these orphans needs no embellishments. The truth is tragic enough.

Submitted by Judith Breitstein



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 where information and registration forms will be available.

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

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):

Organization: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Day Phone: _____ Other Phone _____

Email: _____