



The Dispatch

Newspaper of the

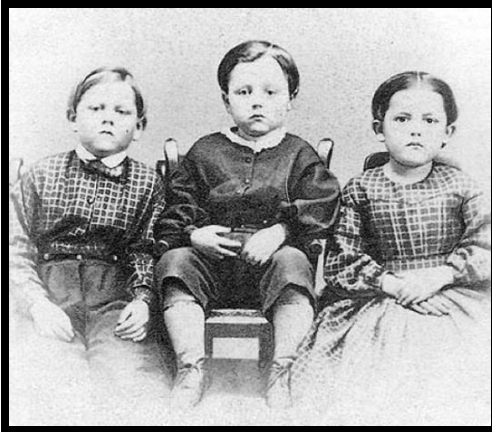
CAPITAL DISTRICT CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Many are familiar with the story of the dead Union soldier at Gettysburg, who was found with an ambrotype in his hands. The picture showed three children who were now orphans. Eventually the soldier was identified as Sgt. Amos Humiston of the 154th NYVI. His wife had a picture of him as a civilian, but Dr. Francis Bourns had the picture “photo shopped” placing a beard and military coat on the image. Bourns sold images of the children and their deceased father to raise money for an orphanage in Gettysburg.

Years later, a box of letters from Humiston were discovered. It included a poem he wrote.

I am very sad tonight dear wife
My thoughts are dwelling on home and thee
As I keep the lone night watch
Beneath the holley tree

The winds are sighing through the trees
And as they onward roam
They whisper hopes of happiness
Within our cottage home