

Veterans of the American Civil War

To date we have found twenty-two veterans of the *American Civil War (1861-1865)* buried in *Oswego Pioneer Cemetery*. They fought in significant battles and several were wounded in action. All served in the Union Army, were fortunate to survive the war and later would migrate to Oregon. Five of these men (*John Bowles, Albert Clinefelter, William Lee Davis, James K. Worthington, and William Worthington*) enlisted in various military units while living in Ohio, a state that played a key role in providing troops, military officers, and supplies to the army. Ohio raised nearly 320,000 soldiers for the Union, just behind New York and Pennsylvania in total manpower contributions. It is said that on the eve of a battle President Lincoln had a habit of asking how many Ohio men would participate. When someone inquired why, Lincoln remarked, "*Because I know that if there are many Ohio soldiers to be engaged, it is probable we will win the battle, for they can be relied upon in such an emergency.*"



Five soldiers in Union uniforms
Library of Congress, Liljenquist Family Collection

John Bowles and the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain



An example of research being gathered on Civil War veterans by OPC Director **Steve Dietz** can be given for **John Bowles** (1826-1907), a native of Virginia. In June 1862 Bowles enlisted for the three months' service with *Company E, 18th Ohio Volunteer Infantry*. Two years later Bowles re-enlisted as a veteran in the same regiment and marched in the *Atlanta Campaign* under the command of General William Tecumseh Sherman. On June 18, 1864 Bowles was wounded in the left arm at *Kennesaw Mountain*. Gangrene set in and Bowles' arm was amputated at the shoulder in the same day. Bowles remained hospitalized for nearly 5 months, until

November 15, 1864, when he was discharged and returned home to Ohio. An estimated 60,000 men lost limbs during the Civil War and their needs spurred innovation in artificial limbs in the late 19th century.



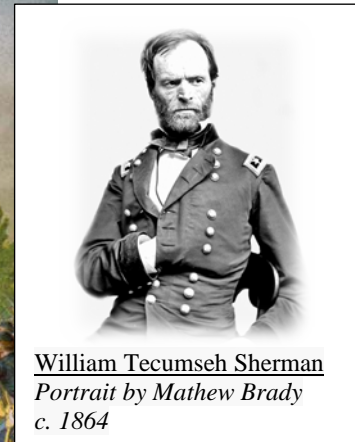
*John Bowles marker at
Oswego Pioneer Cemetery*

John Bowles *continued*

In 1883, some nineteen years after returning to Ohio from the war, John Bowles moved his family to Oswego, Oregon. He died on February 5, 1907 in Portland, Oregon. His obituary was published in the Ironton Register on February 21, 1907. It reads,

DIES IN OREGON

John Bowles, a former resident of Lawrence County, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Mattie Ball of Portland, Oregon, Monday night, February 4th, aged 80 years. Death was due to alveolar heart trouble. A Portland exchange has the following to say of him: "Mr. Bowles retired Monday evening, feeling as well as usual. He was a man of robust constitutions and sickness had seldom visited him. One of the members of his family went to his room to call him Tuesday morning and found that he had passed away." Mr. Bowles was born in Virginia on November 12, 1826. His parents moved to Ohio while he was still a boy and he continued to reside in that state until he moved to Oregon in 1883, settling in Oswego, where he owned considerable property. He was married in 1846 to Miss Sarah McIntyre of Lawrence County, Ohio. Seven children were born of the union of whom six survive. Mr. Bowles enlisted in an Ohio regiment during the Civil War and remained in the service until a wound necessitated the amputation of his left arm, and he was discharged. The funeral took place Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the I. O. O. F. Hall at Oswego, Oregon with funeral at Oswego. He is survived by one son, John Bowles of Alabama, and five daughters, Mrs. Susan Chuck and Mrs. Kate Fox of Oswego, Mrs. Elizabeth Hosey of Oregon City; Mrs. Martha Ball of Portland, and Mrs. Lucy McClelland of Ohio.



William Tecumseh Sherman
Portrait by Mathew Brady
c. 1864

Illustration: Battle of Kennesaw Mountain
Published by Kurz and Allison, c1891

The Battle of Kennesaw Mountain was fought in northwest Georgia in June 1864 during the Atlanta Campaign of the American Civil War. General Sherman reported to Washington "The whole country is one vast fort, and (General) Johnston must have at least 50 miles of connected trenches with abatis and finished batteries. We gain ground daily, fighting all the time. ... Our lines are now in close contact and the fighting incessant, with a good deal of artillery. As fast as we gain one position the enemy has another all ready. ... Kennesaw ... is the key to the whole country." The battle was the most significant frontal assault launched by Sherman against the Confederate Army of Tennessee and ended in a tactical defeat for Union forces. The word "Kennesaw" is derived from the Cherokee Indian "*gah-nee-sah*" meaning cemetery or burial ground.