

THE FLAGBEARER

Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table

Tuesday, March 27, 2018, 7:00 pm

We meet at Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum

1000C Rodney French Blvd, New Bedford, MA

Lecture is no charge, open to all, plenty of parking

...News from the New Bedford Civil War Round Table

... Please continue to support our **Book Award** fund raiser, the 50-50 raffle. It is much appreciated. The next drawing will be at the June picnic.

...The New Bedford Civil War Round Table will once again conduct a **Memorial Day Service** at Rural Cemetery at 9:00 a.m. **Saturday May 26**. The keynote speaker will again be New Bedford **Mayor Jon Mitchell**.

...Time is running out on reserving your place on the "**5 Days in May**" annual bus tour of Civil War battlefields. See the attached flyer.

...The **Book Award** application deadline is fast approaching. See page 3.

...Many thanks to CWRT member **Mark Mello** for his excellent Feb presentation.

...Our friend of the New Bedford Round Table, **Megan Kate Nelson**, has a very interesting article in this month's issue of **Civil War Monitor**. Her title, - **The West's Missing War**. Megan will be speaking at our November 13, 2018 meeting.

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Meet Our March 27 Speaker

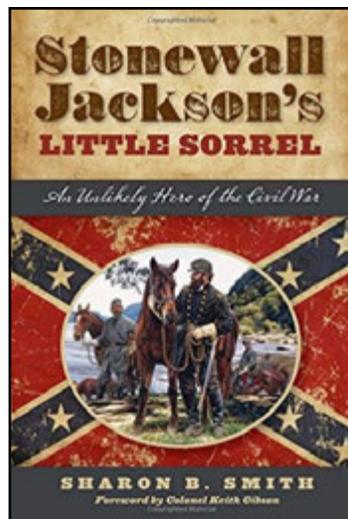
Sharon Brooke Smith

If you haven't seen Sharon B. Smith on Facebook, CSPAN, or You Tube, you'll find her here at our Round Table on March 27th. 2 million horses and mules died during the Civil War, many times the human casualties. Stonewall Jackson's Little Sorrel did survive the war, in fact outlived his master by 23 years. You'll learn more about this interesting horse in March.



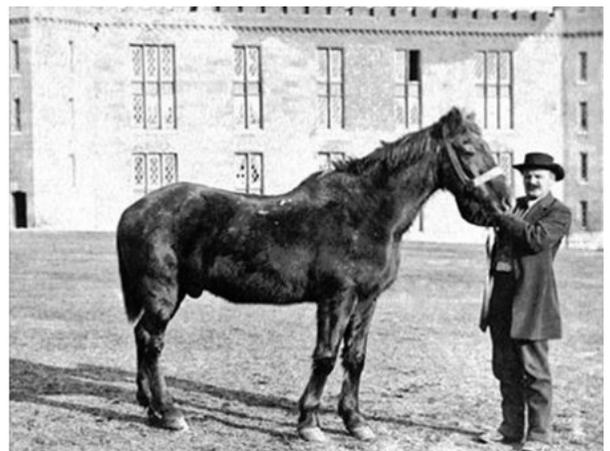
Sharon B. Smith

Sharon is a former news reporter and anchor who moved into sports and horse racing journalism at ESPN. She also worked on racing broadcasts for several years at NBC Sports. Since leaving broadcasting she has written more than a half dozen books, including works on racing, horse care and training, and the Civil War. See more about her on page 2.



Also check her websites

www.ctcivilwar.com
 www.danpatchbook.com
 And follow her at
 www.newenglancivilwar.blogspot.com
 Facebook
 Twitter

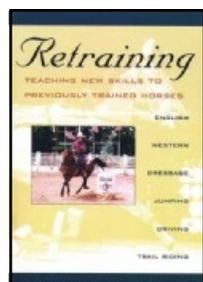


More about our March Speaker, Sharon B. Smith

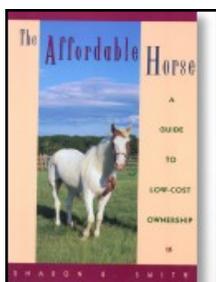
Sharon, a native of Missoula, Montana, began her television career in Austin, Texas, before moving to TV stations in upstate New York and New Haven Connecticut, as an anchor and reporter. She moved to ESPN shortly after the new-concept cable channel began, appearing on Sportscenter and eventually *Down the Stretch*, the first weekly horse racing program on cable TV. She also appeared on racing broadcasts for NBC.

She began her broadcasting career working as a part-time DJ as an undergraduate at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. She moved into television while a graduate student at the University of Texas in Austin. She was a police beat reporter, covered the state legislature and was a weekend anchor.

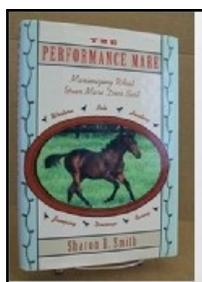
Down the Stretch was the first national weekly horse racing broadcast in decades when it first went on the air in the early 1980's. Sharon was its anchor and primary writer as well as the anchor of ESPN's broadcasts of the Kentucky Derby Day, Preakness Day, The Breeders' Crown and the Hambletonian. She also worked for NBC Sports on broadcasts of the Breeders' Cup and the Arlington Million.



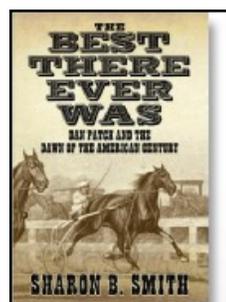
Retraining:
Teaching New Skills to Previously Trained Horses



The Affordable Horse: A Guide to Low Cost Ownership



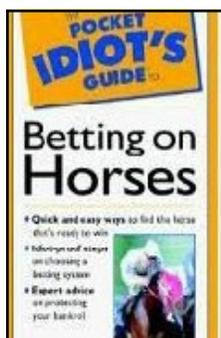
The Performance Mare: Maximizing what Your Mare Does Best



The Best There Ever Was: Dan Patch and the Dawn of the American Century



Connecticut's Civil War: A Guide for Travelers



The Pocket Idiot's Guide to Betting on Horses

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

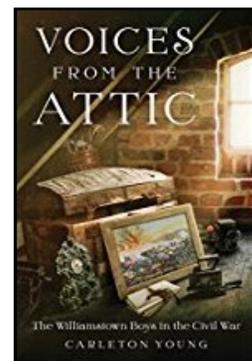
April 24, 2018

Carlton Young

Book author from Pittsburgh, PA

Voices from the Attic: The Williamstown Boys in the Civil War

Carlton Young's new book has received excellent reviews. We are pleased to have him on our 2018 speaker schedule.



May 22, 2018

Joe Dipoli, Pres. Olde Colony Civil War Round Table



History of Fort Warren Prison in Boston Harbor

This is New England's most historic Civil War site.

Highlights include

...The Ghost of the Lady in Black

...Confederate Prison Life

...The Execution of Deserters



Fort Warren Boston

2018 BOOK AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE BOOK AWARD COMMITTEE

The New Bedford Civil War Round Table will once again be providing a \$500.00 Book Award to a deserving high school senior. The eligible schools are GNB Regional Voke, New Bedford High School, Aponequet High School, Old Colony Regional Voke, Dartmouth High School, Fairhaven High School, Bishop Stang, and Old Rochester Regional High School. The applications are to be submitted to the New Bedford Civil War Round Table by Friday, March 30, 2018, to be considered.

MAJOR NEWS FROM NPS AND NB HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our friends at the New Bedford Whaling National Park , and the New Bedford Historical Society, have announced very big news . They are bringing to New Bedford, noted Gettysburg National Park Service Ranger and Battlefield Guide , Troy Harman. This event will be in September. Our Civil War Round Table will support Troy's visit to New Bedford with our enthusiastic turn out for his lecture. More news on date and time will be forthcoming.

Want to join the New Bedford Civil War Round Table?

2017-2018 Membership Form

Membership is valid for 2017-2018 Program year, beginning September 1, 2017. Please fill out this form and along with a check payable to "Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table", send to :

**New Bedford Civil War Round Table
C/O Martin Flinn, Treas**

39 Little Oak Road New Bedford, MA 02745

Name: _____

Type of Membership: ____(\$25.00)Single, or ____(\$30.00)Family

Home Address: _____

Home phone: _____

Email: _____

SAVE THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR

******Mary Surratt appearance in New Bedford ******

Because we anticipate a large turnout in October, our meeting will be moved to the New Bedford Whaling National Park, NPS downtown New Bedford. We thank the NPS for their support.

October 23, 2018

Kate Ramirez, Living Historian

Mary Surratt, Lincoln Assassination—Co-conspirator

Hung on July 7, 1865

"Guilty or Not Guilty"



This will be Kate's first New England appearance. You will not wish to miss this performance, -historical, educational, and thought provoking. Guilty ???

AL SMITH ANNOUNCEMENT

IT HAS JUST BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT KATE RAMIREZ WILL BE JOINING THE 2018 "5 DAYS IN MAY" BUS TOUR TO VIRGINIA FOR A PORTION OF THE TRIP AS A TOUR GUIDE, IN ADDITION TO TOUR GUIDE CHUCK VEIT.

The return of Col. Kevin J. Weddle, Ph. D. U.S. Army War College , Carlisle , Pa. , Professor of Military Theory and Strategy.

September 25, 2018 , " The Strategic Build-up to the Battle of Antietam"

Col. Weddle will also be doing an introduction to his new book on the Revolutionary War Battle of Saratoga on Monday September 24th , at the Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum to the Historical Society. Plan on attending that presentation also.



Grant's Personal Memoirs, by Peter Rioux, New Bedford Civil War Round Table Member

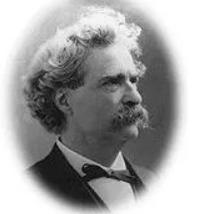
Nothing greater characterized Ulysses S. Grant's battlefield leadership style than his ability to pursue a relentless and sustained aggressiveness of attack. He had described this quality by writing, "One of my superstitions had always been when I started to go anywhere, or do anything, not to turn back, or stop until the thing intended was accomplished." Grant's perseverance in the completion of his personal memoirs, despite the sustained pain he would experience over thirteen months as a result of tongue and throat cancer, became his last illustrative testimonial.



After having experienced the complete depletion of his financial assets as a result of his investment in the financial investment firm led by the unscrupulous Ferdinand Ward, Grant was again approached by the editors of Century Magazine to write four articles as part of their "Battles and Leaders of the Civil War" series.

A reluctant Grant felt that there were too many such articles on the market and that his articles would receive little public interest. However, he ultimately agreed to write the articles (Shiloh, Vicksburg, Wilderness, Chattanooga) at five hundred dollars per article and, despite his limited confidence in his writing ability, he started the project in June 1884.

Upon completion of his first attempt, the Century editors felt that Grant needed to enrich the articles by providing a greater sense of himself- his impressions, his feelings, reactions- creating more of a complete first hand personal account of his experiences. Century was so enthusiastic about Grant's rewrite describing the Shiloh Battle that they offered him a contract providing him ten per cent of the book royalties to write his full Civil War memoirs. Even though he felt the book would receive limited public interest, he agreed with the concept of the memoirs.



Mark Twain, who had met Grant in Chicago earlier, heard about Century's offer to Grant and strongly felt that the contract offer was woefully insufficient. He wrote in his diary, "When I read the draft contract, I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. The contract was absurd and should not be considered for an instant." Twain countered the Century contract by informing Grant that the memoirs would sell in the hundreds of thousands and offered to publish the memoirs with his own company to be sold by subscription as a two volume set at seventy per cent of the net book sales. Grant accepted this proposal with a one thousand dollar advance, even though Twain had offered ten thousand dollars.



In the early summer of 1884, Grant experienced a painful throat reaction in the rear of his throat after eating a peach, describing it as "liquid fire." After delaying visits to a doctor, he ultimately was examined by his own doctor three months later. Grant's doctor reached a preliminary cancer diagnosis and a life expectancy prognosis of one year, later confirmed by a team of doctors. The cancer was largely attributed to Grant's early pipe smoking starting in 1850, his use of chewing tobacco, and then extensive cigar smoking in 1862 (twenty per day) after the victory at Fort Donelson.

Despite the pain and extensive discomfort of his affliction affecting his eating and sleeping, Grant gathered his extensive research material (i.e. war memos, notes, maps, directives, letters), his white-lined pad paper and pencils and, working out of his home in New York City, he began to write. Driven by his need to provide financial comfort for his wife and knowing that his time was limited, his approach, aided by the doctor's application of cocaine and water to ease the pain, was relentless and consistently productive. When he was told by his wife, Julia, to rest, he responded, "I must go to my writing, or I fear my book will not be finished."

Starting in September 1884, writing in his clear, concise, lucid and direct narrative style, Grant found that he immensely enjoyed the process of recording his recollections. Grant retained a superb memory applying his great recall ability, consulting repeatedly with official military records to ensure that his narrative was

completely accurate and represented a “truthful history.”

In late March, Grant experienced a severe coughing spell that drastically affected his breathing ability. Doctors felt that Grant had reached his courageous end. However, in early April, he recovered and continued relentlessly, writing up to ten thousand words per day, finishing volume one and then initiating volume two. By this time, the general public had become aware of Grant's deteriorating health. Daily updates of his condition, starting with the New York Daily Tribune's publication of the headline, “General Grant is a very sick man,” were reported by the New York press.

In early June, Grant was moved to a resort cottage at Mount McGregor, located one hundred eighty miles north of New York City. Comfortably enjoying the more hospitable and cooler mountain air, Grant would often sit on the cottage's piazza while he continued to write volume two, edit the proofs of volume one, and receive last visitors, such as General Sherman and Confederate General Simon Buckner, whom Grant had defeated at Fort Donelson.

By July 20, his physical strength depleted, leaving him with the ability to communicate only with notes, Grant had finished his memoirs – one thousand, two hundred thirty-one pages (primarily describing his Civil War experience), three hundred, thirty-six thousand words, rich and honest, with chronology, autobiography, strategy, commentary, analysis, background and maps. He authored his book's dedication, “These volumes are dedicated to the American soldier and sailor.” He expressed in his conclusion, “This was a fearful lesson and should teach us the necessity of avoiding wars in the future. I feel that we are on the eve of a new era, when there is great harmony between the Federals and the Confederates. I cannot stay to be a living witness to the correctness of that prophecy; but I feel it within me that it is to be so.” Three days later, on July 23, 1885, Grant, in the presence of his wife and son, quietly passed from the American scene.



Grant's memoirs proved to be the huge success that Twain had predicted. Three hundred thousand two volume sets were sold by subscription, resulting in gross sales of one and a half million dollars. Grant's wife received a total payment of four hundred fifty thousand dollars (approximately eleven million dollars in present day value); a financial profit from which multiple future Grant family generations would benefit.

The literary critical reviews were overwhelmingly enthusiastic:

“I am reading General Grant's book with a delight I fail to find in novels. The book merits its enormous success, simply as literature.”

William Dean Howells

“A unique expression of national character. Personal in every line. The memoirs communicate the spirit of the battles themselves and makes it possible to understand how Grant won them.”

Edmund Wilson

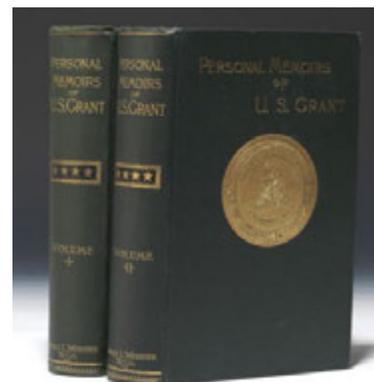
“A great, unique and unapproachable literary masterpiece.”

Mark Twain

— “One of the finest books ever written by an American.”

Gertrude Stein

To this day, Civil War scholars and historians regard Grant's personal memoirs as highly as the late renowned military historian John Keegan who said, “An enthralling history of one man's generalship, perhaps the most revelatory autobiography of high command to exist in any language.”



Peter's source's include Ron Chernow's Grant book, Grant's Final Victory, Charles Bracelen Flood, Grant, William McFeely, Grant, Jean Edward Smith, You Tube , John Marszalek, and finally, Joan Waugh

The Annual Five Days in May Trip is Announced for 2018 by Al and Dave Smith , The Greater Boston Civil War Round Table

Plans have been completed for another great Civil War field trip. The trip is scheduled for May 16, 2018 through May 20, 2018. The trip will cover sites involved in the battles between the Confederate and Union navies. We will visit the Fortress Monroe and Casement Museum in Newport News, Virginia.



Continuing on our trip will be a visit to the USS Monitor Center to view the remnants of that famous ironclad and then on to City Point (Grant's Headquarters and Supply Base) Belle Grove Plantation to learn about the

Union submarine USS Alligator. We will also visit Drewry's Bluff, the site of the four year confrontation between Confederate marines and the Union Navy. We will also visit other naval battles along the James River. As an added feature of our trip, the hotel accommodations for Thursday and Friday will take us to Williamsburg and all that Williamsburg has to offer. Our weekend ride home will take us to the historic sites around Wilmington, Del.



So if you are looking for a packed fun weekend, come join us. The trip includes 4 nights in hotels located in Waldorf, Maryland one of the sites involved in the escape route of John Wilkes Booth, Williamsburg, Virginia, the famous Revolutionary War area and historic Wilmington, Del. The air conditioned bus is supplied by McGinn Bus Co. Your trip price includes the 4 hotel nights, the bus fare, 3 dinners at restaurants located in Williamsburg and Wilmington, all admissions, donations for Civil War preservation, driver tip, and tour guide. Our tour guide will be naval expert Chuck Veit, longtime friend of our Round Table.

Chuck Veit

A \$50.00 deposit will hold a reservation for this fantastic trip. Send your check payable to Civil War Round Table c/o Al Smith 11 Poplar St, Belmont, MA 02478. The total cost of the trip is \$770.00 for a single person and \$580.00 each for a double room. If you have any questions contact Al Smith at 617-484-5613 or email Al Smith ohjudyoh@yahoo.com.



Dave Smith—James Getty—Al Smith



City Point



Fort Monroe

**COME JOIN UP !!!
THE ANNUAL 5 DAYS IN MAY TRIP**