

October 2023

# THE FLAGBEARER

*This issue of the Flagbearer*

*...October Speaker David Prentiss*

*...Topic: U.S. Grant*

*...Dues Renewal*

*...News from the Civil War Round Table*

*...Holiday Dinner reservation*

*...Timeline for October in the Civil War*

*...Upcoming meeting dates*

*...History of the Sanitary Commission Essay by Peter Rioux*

*...Upcoming Revolutionary War lecture*

*...Upcoming lecture and memorial service at Ft Rodman Military Museum*

## THE GREATER NEW BEDFORD CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

October 24, 2023 6:00 P.M.

Low Tide Yacht Club Location, Doors open at 5:15, 1000 Rodney French Blvd, NB  
No charge for attending meeting, open to the public, ample well lit parking, bring a guest

October 24, 2023 6:00 start

**Speaker is David Prentiss**

**Topic: U S Grant**

*David Prentiss has a BA in Philosophy from Assumption College, a MA in Political Science from Boston College and Juris Doctor degree from New England School of Law.*

*David has been President and CEO of the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra since 2008. He serves on the Board of Trustees of Alma del Mar Charter School, the Advisory Council of Our Sisters' School, and the Advisory Board of New Bedford Research and Robotics. He is an adjunct professor of political science at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, where he teaches courses on constitutional law, American government, and political philosophy. David lives in New Bedford and is an avid cyclist, hiker, runner, birder, photographer, and reader. He has been a member of the New Bedford Civil War Round Table for many years. And he has delivered outstanding presentations to our organization on many occasions. We welcome David Prentiss back to the lecture podium once again.*

*David's talk on Oct 24th focuses on "Catton's Grant: Understanding His Generalship and Greatness"*

*Ulysses S. Grant's reputation as a general has never been without controversy. From his earliest days of command to the present day, there has been an abundance of both praise and blame for his generalship. The eminent Civil War historian, Bruce Catton, was on the praise side of this debate and made the case for Grant's greatness in three books: Grant Moves South, Grant Takes Command, and U.S. Grant and the American Military Tradition. This talk will examine Catton's arguments in favor of Grant and elaborate the key points Catton makes about Grant's generalship from Fort Henry to Appomattox.*



### 2023-2024 Executive Board

Mark Mello-President

Peter Rioux- Vice President

Martin Flinn-Treasurer

Larry Monastesse-Speaker  
Programming

Don Brown-Digital Outreach

Peter Rioux-Langlois Book Award

Recording Secretary- Will Hunter

Jack Richer-Board of Directors

Facebook Page-David Prentiss

Larry Roy-Board of Directors

Bruce Baggaly-Board of Directors  
Emeritus

Bob Macfarlane-Board of Directors  
Emeritus

Website by Following Sea Design

Bob Lytle-Flagbearer

bobbylee76@comcast.net

**....ADDITIONAL NEWS FROM THE ROUND TABLE**

*Don Brown, Digital Coordinator, has been hard at work obtaining price quotations and specifications for New Bedford Civil War Round Table wearing apparel. Look for announcements from him in the near future.*

*Don also has revamped our new Round Table logo, in various color schemes no less. Here is one example.*



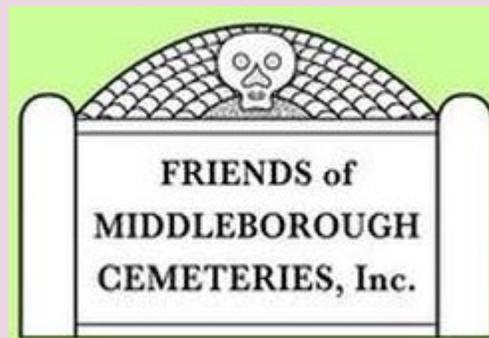
*It has been suggested that our Civil War Round Table sponsor a field trip to private tour of the Varnum Memorial Armory in East Greenwich, RI. The recommended dates are either Nov 4 or 5.*



*Don Brown has sent you an email asking for your level of interest and what dates you could be available. Please respond to Don's survey.*



*It has been suggested that our Round Table undertake the cleaning of headstones of Civil War veterans. Here is a group that would be happy to show us how it is done.*



**PRESERVING OUR GRAVESTONES**

**SIGNS FOR OUR CEMETERIES**

**CIVIL WAR GRAVESTONE PRESERVATION**

**VETERANS HEADSTONES CLEANING**

FALL MEETING SCHEDULE, 2023 AND WINTER 2024

November 28, 2023	Michael Murphy	Gen'l P.T.G. Beauregard
December 12, 2023	Holiday Dinner	Century House, Acushnet
January 23, 2024	Ty Seidule	Zoom only. <u>Robert E. Lee and Me</u>
February 27, 2024	Brian Bush	Zoom only
March 26, 2024	Joe Michaud	Gen'l Ambrose Burnside
April 23, 2024	Robert Kane	Lincoln and War Powers
May 28, 2024	Chuck Veit	Chuck's latest book
June 25, 2024	BBQ Picnic	At Low Tide Yacht Club



**CIVIL WAR TRIVIA QUIZ**

1. What percentage of the population of the United States died in the Civil War?

14%          2%          30%          5%

2. What Civil War battle caused the most casualties?

Shiloh          Antietam          Chickamauga          Gettysburg

3. What was the first state to secede from the Union?

Alabama          Florida          Mississippi          South Carolina

4. How long did it take for Lincoln to deliver the Gettysburg address?

2 minutes          2 hours          42 minutes          12 minutes

5. What first appeared on a U.S. coin during the Civil War

In God We Trust          e Pluribus Unum          Abraham Lincoln          Eye of Providence

6. What Native American tribe was allied with the Confederacy during the Civil War?

Creek          Choctaw          Cherokee          All of these

7. Duration of the Civil War

4 years, 8 months, 1 week, 4 days          3 years, 10 months, 2 days          4 Years, 3 weeks, and 6 days

1.2%

2. Gettysburg

Answers

3. South Carolina

4. 2 minutes

5. In God We Trust

6. All of these

7. 4 Years, 3 weeks, and 6 days

REMINDER TO CHECK OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR UPDATES.

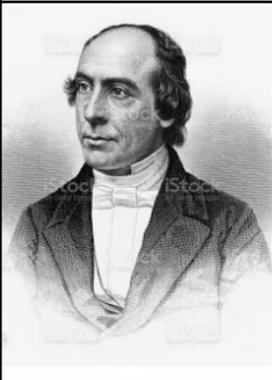
“LIKE AND SUBSCRIBE “TO GET AUTO NOTIFICATIONS

WE ALSO MAINTAIN AN EXCELLENT WEBSITE FOR YOU TO  
OBTAIN ROUND TABLE NEWS

DON BROWN WILL HAVE MEETINGS ON VIDEO AND POSTED  
TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

## The Union Sanitary Commission, by Peter Rioux

At the outset of the nation's tragic civil conflict, the challenge seemed overwhelming. Union casualties suffered at the first Battle of Bull Run shocked those who anticipated an early and easy Union victory with minimal casualties.



Henry Whitney Bellows

Massachusetts Unitarian minister Henry Whitney Bellows and mental health care advocate Dorothea Dix foresaw an escalating level of Union casualties and were compelled to create a plan to provide direct medical and auxiliary support to their nation's Union troops.

Bellows and Dix brought their proposal to the direct attention of the Surgeon General and Secretary of War Simon Cameron, who then vigorously proposed this urgent need for Union military medical support to President Lincoln. He strongly agreed and rapidly issued an executive order in June 1861, establishing the Union Sanitary Commission.

The Commission would be modeled after the British sanitary system formed during the Crimean War and would be created as an expanded expression of the preceding Central Association of Relief.

The Sanitary Commission represented a comprehensive central civilian assistance effort to address the dismal conditions that Bellows and Dix found existed among four hundred Union military camps they had inspected – deficient medicine, poor food quality, extensive infections, and diseases, such as dysentery, typhoid, scurvy, and deplorable medical care.



Frederick Law Olmsted

Bellows also recognized that the successful creation of such a Commission would require the leadership of someone with extraordinary management and organizational skills. As a result, he appointed world renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted as Executive Secretary.

Olmsted had been the designer and creator of the nation's extensive park system, including New York's Central Park, the grounds of the U.S. Capitol and White House, Chicago's Washington Park, Boston's Emerald Park System, New Bedford's Buttonwood Park, and over 100 park and recreational grounds located throughout the nation.

Olmsted structured the Commission into three major departments, prevention, general relief, and special relief. The Commission assumed extensive and far-reaching support – the sanitation of camps, vital assistance for the provision of medical supplies and depots, including bedding, bandages, surgical instruments, and nutritious food.



Dorothea Dix



New Bedford Buttonwood Park

They created wound centers and hospital ships to provide care for wounded soldiers prior to their eventual transport to hospitals. The Commission also organized five-to-seven-day Sanitary Fairs, which were responsible for raising over twenty-five million dollars in medical support, recruited over fifteen thousand nursing volunteers, such as Louisa May Alcott, and worked with over 250 local aid societies.



The Commission's services for the troops were also augmented through the location of over one million Union deceased and wounded.

The increasing casualties suffered by the Union in 1863 and 1864 (Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Cold Harbor) placed even greater demands upon Sanitary Commission volunteers, many of whom experienced disabling physical and mental illnesses as a consequence of their severe exhaustion.



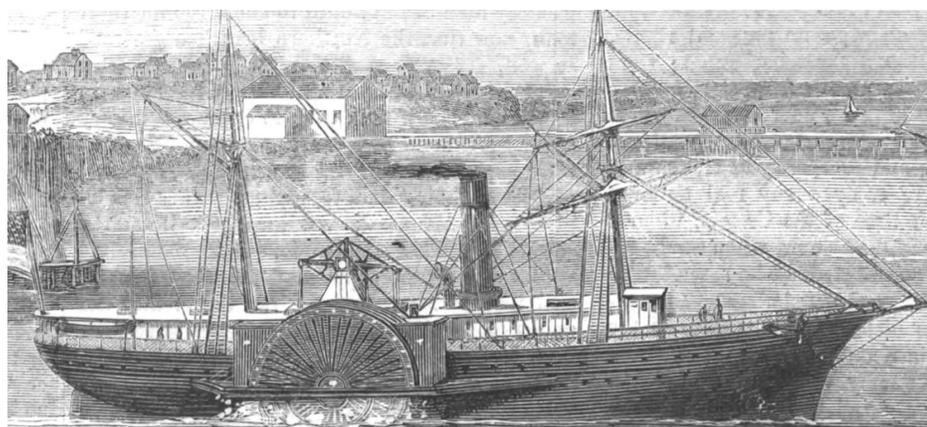
The Commission's services continued after the war until May 1866 – operating thirty soldiers' homes and rest homes, coordinating with the Army for pension and back payments for troop veterans, continuing the location of deceased troops, and negotiating for the release of prisoners of war.



The Commission became the most extensive civilian volunteer support organization in the nation's military history, responsible for the saving of thousands of Union lives.

An English officer expressed his admiration for the extensive and honorable work of the Commission by stating that “The Sanitary Commission disciplined and instructed the whole people and enlisted every man and woman and child in the military service to their country.”

They served as the vital cord, linking the Union military and unmatched level of collective and dedicated domestic support, which proved to be so crucial in achieving the ultimate Union victory.



Hospital Ship Daniel Webster serving in Texas



*Time for dues renewal 2023-2024. Not sure if you are current ? Or, perhaps you don't recall if you sent in a dues check. Here is easy answer, no need to call the Treasurer. If you do not have a dues card in your possession, that reads New Bedford Civil War Round Table member "2023-2024", then you haven't paid your dues. Time to remit. We value your membership. With it, we fund our annual Joseph Langlois book award scholarship, and pay our bills. Please take the time to support our Round Table. Keep the Flagbearer coming to your electronic mailbox.*

**The New Bedford Civil War Round Table**

**2023-2024 Membership and Dues**

**Effective Dates July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024**



**IT IS TIME TO SUBMIT YOUR DUES FOR THE NEW SEASON ; 2023 -2024.**

**Please fill out the form and make the check payable to "New Bedford CWRT"**

**Mail to New Bedford Civil War Round Table**

**C/O Martin Flinn, Treas., 39 Little Oak Road, New Bedford, MA 02745**



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

**Type of Membership:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Individual (\$25.00)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Family (\$30.00)**

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for being a member of the New Bedford Civil War Round Table**

## TIMELINE FOR OCTOBER 1861 THRU 1864

1861

*...U.S.S. Massachusetts and C.S.S. Florida exchanged fire in the engagement near Ship Island in Mississippi Sound.*

*... Battle of Ball's Bluff. Brig. Gen'l Charles Stone ferried the Union troops across the Potomac River into a disastrous skirmish. Stone was imprisoned, accused of treason, but later returned to service.*

*...Western Union completes the first transcontinental telegraph.*

*...Keel laid for the U.S.S. Monitor in Long Island*

*...Lincoln receives formal request for retirement from from General-In-Chief Winfield Scott*

1862

*...Lincoln journeys to Harpers ferry to visit with Gen'l McClellan after the Antietam Battle*

*...Battle of Corinth, Mississippi*

*...Confederate cruiser Alabama took three more prizes. Cries of anguish from Yankee shippers were heard louder than ever.*

*...Jeb Stuart attacks, burns, and wrecks Chambersburg Pa*

*...Lincoln orders the removal of army bakeries from the basement of the Capitol building*

*...Lincoln becomes impatient with McClellan's lack of initiative*

1863

*...Third autumn of the war. Confederates have been successful blocking Union drives on Charleston and Texas. They were victorious at Chickamauga.*

*...Fighting picks up in the West. Lee and Mead send troops to Alabama, Chattanooga, and Bridgeport, Tenn*

*...Confederate cavalry once again invades Missouri. The Bristoe Virginia campaign begins with Lee's Army of Northern Virginia on the move.*

*...H.L. Hunley sank for second time. Hunley, the inventor, and 7 men died.*

*...Lincoln calls for 30,000 more volunteers*

*...Grant arrives in Chattanooga to assume command. It is soon relieved*

1864

*...Atlanta is taken, and Sheridan conducts a successful campaign in the Shenandoah Valley , Sherman continues to battle Hood.*

*...C.S.S. Florida departs England and begins her career as a Confederate raider , taking 37 prizes. This ship sinks in November after a collision with an army transport.*

*...Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Roger Brooke Taney dies. Although criticized for his decision in the Dread Scott case, he remains a major figure in American jurisprudence.*

*...Battle of Cedar Creek or Belle Grove, Virginia. Confederates raid St. Albans, Vermont*

**THE NEW BEDFORD CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
PRESENTS THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER**



**When?** Tuesday December 12, 2023  
**Time?** 6:00 p.m. Start time. Food promptly served at 6:30  
**Where?** Century House  
107 South Main Street  
Acushnet, MA 02743 (508) 995-3221

\*\*\*\*\*

**Tickets and reservations needed?** Yes. \$37.00 per person

**May I bring a guest? More than one?** Yes and Yes . Dress is casual

Buffet menu to include baked honey ham, New England baked scrod, grilled chicken caprese, vegetables, five cheese tortellini, sweet bell pepper rice, mixed salad greens, focaccia herb bread, ice cream with chocolate sauce, coffee and tea. A cash bar will be available.

Please note, this is the same location as last year; Century House Crystal Room

\*\*\*\*\*

Century House will provide special meals by request.; - Vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free, special allergies

\*\*\*\*\*

To purchase tickets, make your check payable to the NB Civil War Round Table and mail to Bob Lytle, 76 Shipyard Lane, So. Dartmouth, MA 02748

**Name (s)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

News from the Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum. Mark your calendar for a presentation October 15th at 2:00 pm at the Museum



The British raid Olde Dartmouth in 1778, burn New Bedford, Fairhaven, Dartmouth, and Acushnet.

Learn more about this devastating Clark's Cove landing of 4,000 British troops and this raid.

On Sunday,  
October

15th, at 2:00 p.m. at the Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum, along with collaborating co-partner, Dartmouth Heritage Preservation

Trust will host Jonathan Lane, Historian from the Massachusetts REV 250 consortium. He will deliver his talk on events of the American Revolutionary War.

The public is welcome, there is ample parking at the Ft Taber~Ft Rodman Military Museum.



Nearly nine million dollars. That's how much damage was done by the raiding parties in New Bedford, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, and Acushnet, in 1778.

After the British closed the port of Boston, much needed supplies were brought through the Olde Dartmouth region. In retaliation, the British launched their raids along the New England coast.



Historian Jonathan Lane of Revolution 250 will tell us this story of retaliation.

The Dartmouth Preservation Heritage Trust will conduct a short business meeting for its members.

The Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum will display its collection of Revolutionary artifacts.

Jonathan Lane

Also, the Museum will be open for all, please take the time to tour the various collections, including a history of the British and American flags of the Revolutionary era.

Any questions can be directed to Diane Gilbert at the Dartmouth Heritage Preservation Trust. Her email is [d.m.gilbert51@gmail.com](mailto:d.m.gilbert51@gmail.com)





## News from the Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum

*At the Ft Taber~Ft Rodman Military Museum on Veteran's Day, November 11 at 11:00 a.m., a short Memorial Service will be held to mark the end of hostilities of World War 1. The Museum will be open early for this event. The focus of the November 11 ceremony will be the bell ringing service, commemorating the end of the fighting in the trenches.*

November 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



*The next day, Sunday, November 12, the Museum will host a lecture by Joe Yukna, Co-Founder of the Cape Cod Military Museum. His presentation will feature the story of Sgt. Stubby, the most decorated dog in World War 1. This presentation will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the main room of the Ft Taber~Ft Rodman Military Museum.*

*Sgt. Stubby, an "American Bull Terrier" mutt was the unofficial mascot of the 102nd Infantry Regiment and was assigned to the 26th(Yankee) Division in World War 1. He served for 18 months and participated in 17 battles on the Western Front. He saved his regiment from surprise mustard gas attacks, found and comforted the wounded, and allegedly once caught a German soldier by the seat of his pants and held him until American soldiers found him. Joe Yukna will deliver an interesting story about Sgt. Stubby's career, which fostered a Hollywood movie.*



Sgt. Stubby

November 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Sunday, Nov 12th 2023

