



# THE FLAGBEARER

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

My records indicate that we are celebrating our tenth year as a Civil War Round Table. We began seated around a small almost round table, and have now grown to over 47 paid members. Congratulations !!!!!

Reminder.....If your bookshelf is getting overloaded with too many books on the Civil War , please consider a book donation to the Round Table for our monthly raffle. Or, bring them to the June picnic for the grand semi-annual book raffle.

Do you aspire to research and write an article for the 'Flagbearer'? Free feel to dive in. Use Microsoft Word and email your work to me for inclusion here.

**Mark your calendar—The New Bedford Civil War Round Table Memorial Day Service will be Saturday May 27, 2017 at Rural Cemetery , 149 Dartmouth St, New Bedford , at 9:00 a.m.**

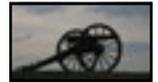
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## Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table

**Tuesday, April 25th 7:00 pm**

**Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum**



### April 25 SPEAKER— MR. JOHN FOSKETT

**John Foskett was last with us as a speaker in May 2016. His topic was Civil War Artillery. As you may recall , he ran out of time, and his topic was very interesting. So we invited him back. We are going to learn still more about Artillery in the Civil War. John's passion for this topic is quite impressive. John earned his B.A. from Notre Dame and J.D. from Boston College Law School.**



**He has been a Principal with the Deutsch Williams Boston Law Firm since 1987. He is admitted to practice in Massachusetts, in the United States Supreme Court, in the United States Courts of Appeals for the First Circuit and for the Ninth Circuit, and in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. In his spare time he pursues his interests in rock climbing and mountaineering, mountain biking, and Notre Dame hockey. He is also a book reviewer for the Civil War Times.**

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### **FIELD ARTILLERY IN THE CIVIL WAR**

*The Civil War is many times referred to as the first "modern" war, one in which the armies were broken into specialized arms. General Henry H. Hunt, a West Point graduate and career artillery officer, had advocated the Artillery should be a separate arm, like Cavalry, for many years before the Civil War. In 1858, he was one of three officers chosen to rewrite the Field Artillery Manual, and defined that the service of batteries assigned to brigades of Infantry or Cavalry was subordinate to the operation of the unit, but that the Artillery Reserve was distinct arm of battle, commanded by it's superior officer, under the immediate orders of the general commanding.*

*There are two distinct types of artillery units; Heavy (or Foot) Artillery, and Light (or Field) Artillery. Heavy Artillery units were responsible for seacoast, garrison and mountain artillery. Light or Field Artillery is divided into two parts; Horse Artillery, where all men rode horses and served with the Cavalry, and Mounted, where men marched alongside the cannons. When the Mounted units went into battle, the men jumped on to the cannon and limber and rode into action.*

### Why do we have this interest in the American Civil War?

Why does the American Civil War have such a hold on us. The story of the Civil War is a story of our history, how we developed as a nation. 650,000 young men died in this war. If you were to extrapolate this scale per capita in dead soldiers to 1970, it would mean that in Viet Nam, we would have lost 2 million men. Now, that is a national commitment that would be difficult to muster today. We, as a population would simply not put up with that. The Civil War is the story of our great national suffering. And, this history story is never just "settled history". 65,000 books have been published on the Civil War, and this does not include the Reconstruction Era. Our interpretation continues to evolve. This history story is a dark story with a beginning, a middle, and an end, and that end freed the slaves, a 200 year stain on our society. There were villains and heroes. The Civil War was the most divisive period in our history, and we are attracted to it because we wish to understand it better. We purged and destroyed slavery. It is the beginning of our unification as a country, now defined as a "nation". We did not see ourselves as a nation, we were a collection of states that agreed to band together. Lincoln, in the Gettysburg address, begins to use the word "nation" as a way to describe us. So we study this period in our history to better understand the birth of a new modern nation, that now had a strong central government, a national army, a national banking system, and was now a player on the global stage. We also study the military details, the battlefields, the military strategy, tactics, the army organization, how railroads changed warfare, the technological advancements, and the battlefield commanders. For me, I am forever drawn to stories of how a battle turned on individuals doing the right thing at the right time. For example, I recommend that you study Frank Haskell's story during the repulse of Pickett's Charge on the third day of Gettysburg. His commanders were down, i.e. Hancock and Gibbons, yet he, as an aide, did all the right things to save the day. Quite a guy. Or, and we all know the story, Col Chamberlain and the 20th Maine. It's a great story, but so is the story of Gen'l George Sears "Pap" Greene at Culp's Hill. In fact I highly recommend that you Google up Greene and read his story. So, we all have our reasons for our Civil War interest, why our bookshelves are loaded with books or our Kindle is full of downloads. ....Bob Lytle

(the above based on historian David Blight's first lecture on the Civil War at Yale)



### **UPCOMING SPRING SPEAKERS FOR THE NEW BEDFORD CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE.**

May 23, 2017

Kevin M. Levin

**The History of the Confederate Battle Flag.**

**You can find Kevin's commentary on Twitter, Facebook and many other websites**



June 27, 2017

**Annual New Bedford Civil War Round Table Picnic**

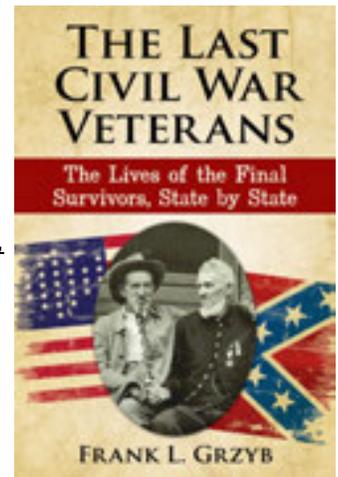
**.....Save The Date**



September 26, 2017

Frank L. Grzyb

**Frank has authored seven books. His work has been featured in Civil War Times, America's Civil War, Civil War Monitor, and North and South. He is a member of the Rhode Island Civil War Round Table.**



October 24, 2017

Jim Thayer

**Jim is a teacher and expert on Frederick Law Olmsted. His presentation will be**

**"Olmsted's War"**



What is a Civil War Round Table?

Civil War Round Tables have flourished on an ad hoc basis since 1940. The concept is one of excellence: people with a common interest in the American Civil War regularly getting together to learn more about the important watershed period of American history. The individual Round Tables are just that—there is no centralized organization calling the shots, or requiring specifics, that each Round Table must adhere to. Consequently, Round Tables have developed differently throughout the world.

Round Tables have varying degrees of difference in the way they are run , in how often they meet, in what "extracurricular" activities they do, and in how serious they are. Some conduct formal meetings over dinner at a local restaurant. Others involve just a few people convening to debate a given topic. Further, they are independent of each other, and not chapters of a corporate hierarchy. In our case, we meet monthly except for July and August. Our June meeting is a picnic. Our December meeting is a Holiday dinner. The other eight months we enjoy hearing from a scheduled speaker. We have been fortunate when it comes to speaker quality. There seems to be a good supply of interesting speakers for New England Round Tables. Outside of our monthly meetings we conduct an annual Memorial Day Ceremony of remembrance at Rural Cemetery in New Bedford. And, we award a Book Scholarship each year to a qualified student. Our Round Table is well served by volunteers on the Executive Board. And, we thank all of you that come out to our meetings and events, for without you, we would not exist....Bob Lytle

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....From the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Donald L. Martin

Real Daughter Rachel Perine of Parkersburg, W.Va. Died Friday, September 9, 2016 at the age of 100. Rachel was born march 8, 1916 to Harvey and Virginia Elliot Smith and grew up in Doddridge County W. Va. She was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Parkersburg, W. Va.

She was 13 in 1929 when her father died at the age of 83. Harvey, her father, enlisted in Company A of the 14th (West) Virginia Volunteer Infantry at the age of 17 in August 1862. The regiment defended the Baltimore and Ohio railroad line and took part in skirmishes at new Creek and Burlington. He was captured at Cloyd's Mountain, Va on May 9, 1864, when he refused to leave his wounded cousin. He spent 6 months as a POW, including 20 days in Andersonville, and lost his right eye site, due to infection.

Following the War, Harvey returned to Doddridge County where he ran a large farm and helped raise 14 children.

WHY DO WE STUDY HISTORY?

Many reasons , but let's explore just a few. From the internet.

....**History repeats itself.** It is important to read and learn about others mistakes in the past so that we do not **commit the same mistakes** in the future.

....**History is interesting.** History can be monotonous for some , but for others history is full of real drama, action , and emotions. It is a **chronicle of life.**

....**History helps us become good citizens.** Informed and well versed citizens, who know their roots, cultures, and cultural diversities, **understand the need for a wise and fair development of their society.**

...**History helps us learn of world events.** Our world has bore witness to countless incidents of importance. If one wants to know about any of these **events that changed the world**, he/she has to dive into the history books to know why a certain event happened.

....**History helps understand change.** With a deep rooted study of history one can know best how people, communities, nations, and the world that we live in has changed over time. Each person's view of the world is shaped by his/her individual experiences and the group he/she live in. If a person isn't aware of the historical experiences of cultures and nations, he/she cannot fully understand the need of **changes and development that sweep a society every now and then.**

READY TO JOIN THE NEW BEDFORD CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE?

Fill out 2017 application and mail your check to Martin Flinn, Treas, New Bedford Civil War Round Table, 39 Little Oak Road, New Bedford MA 02745

Make check out to NBCWRT

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$30)

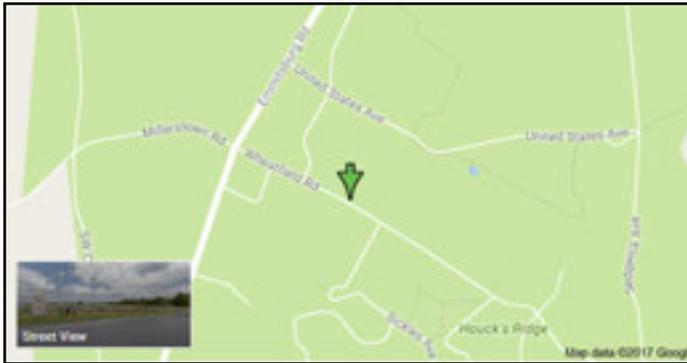
Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 9th Massachusetts Light Artillery Battery

The 9th Massachusetts Light Artillery Battery brought to itself great distinction during the Civil War. It is honored by three monuments at Gettysburg. One of the monuments is shown below. The 9th mustered in on August 10, 1862 at Camp Meigs, Readville Mass. It left for Washington D.C. on September 3rd. At the Battle of Gettysburg, the battery was commanded by Captain John Bigelow, who was wounded on July 2nd. The 9th brought 110 men to the field serving six 12-pounder Napoleons. It lost 8 men killed, 18 wounded and 2 missing. The 9th was assigned to support the 3rd Corps on July 2. When Longstreet's attack led to the collapse of the 3rd corps position it was the last of five batteries to withdraw. Having lost its horses it was forced to withdraw by 'firing by prolong' - using ropes to drag the artillery pieces back by hand after every firing. After retiring 400 yards the battery was ordered to make a stand close by the Trostle house and hold that point at all hazards until a line of artillery could be formed in its rear. It was charged by Col. Humphrey's 21st Mississippi Inf, which entered the battery and fought hand to hand with the cannoniers. The battery fought throughout 1864 and 1865 and mustered out on June 6, 1865 at Boston Harbor.



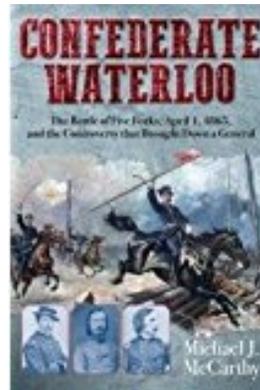
Looking north from Alhambra Road. The roof of the Trostle barn is visible to the upper left of the left wheel of the right cannon. The pieces are 12-pounder Napoleons.

.....More on 2017-18 Round Table Speakers

November 14, 2017

Michael McCarthy

Confederate Waterloo—The Battle of Five Forks, April 1, 1865, and the Controversy that Brought Down a General



September 2018

.....The return of  
Col. Kevin Weddle

Professor of Military Theory and Strategy at the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, Pennsylvania



[PREPARE FOR APRIL MEETING](#)  
[VIEW THESE VIDEOS ON 'YOU TUBE'](#)

['Canister shot from Civil War Cannon'](#)  
['Civil War Artillery, Live Explosive Shell Fire'](#)  
['The Science of Civil War Artillery \(drill and firing\)'](#)

**CIVIL WAR TRIVIA**

- Q. How many states seceded to form the Confederacy?  
 A. Eleven
- Q. According to the prisoner exchange agreement of July 1862, how many privates would be exchanged for one general?  
 A. Sixty
- Q. What percentage of the population of the Confederacy were slaves?  
 A. 38 percent
- Q. Of the 128,000 manufacturing establishments in the United States in 1860, what percentage were in the north?  
 A. 86 percent
- Q. How did Island No. 10, a site of major strategical importance, get its unusual name?  
 A. Starting at the mouth of the Ohio River, going south, it was the tenth island in the Mississippi River.
- Q. In States loyal to the Union, how many males were drafted and classified for military service?  
 A. 777,000
- Q. Of the 30,500 miles of railroads in the country in 1860, what percentage lay in Confederate territory?  
 A. 28 percent
- Q. As president of the United States, what was Abraham Lincoln's annual salary?  
 A. \$25,000
- Q. About how many railroad cars were needed to move a 10,000 man mixed division, infantry and artillery?  
 A. At least 270 boxcars.

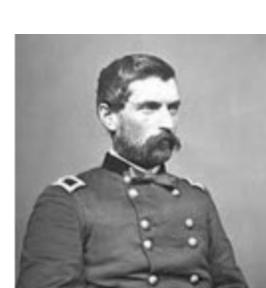
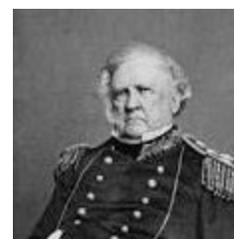
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**NEW BOOK RELEASES**

***Dear Old Ellwood: A Home in the Wilderness*** , by Carolyn Jones Elstner and Katherine Porter Clark. Rappahannock Historical Society This is the story of an historic Virginia homestead that many of us have visited on a past "4 Days in May" trip, with the Greater Boston Civil War Round Table

***A Long and Bloody Task: The Atlanta Campaign from Dalton through Kennesaw Mountain to the Chattahoochee River May 5-July 18, 1864***, by Steven Davis, published by Savas Beatie, in the Emerging Civil War Series Spring of 1864 brought a whole new war to the Western Theater, with new commanders and what would become a new style of warfare

**WHO ARE THESE GENERALS?**



Answers

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| William Sherman        | Ambrose Burnside |
| George McClellan       | Henry Halleck    |
| David Farragut         | Phil Sheridan    |
| Winfield Scott Hancock | Winfield Scott   |
| Dan Sickles            | John Gibbons     |

## WHAT THEY DID AFTER THE WAR



**Daniel Butterfield.** Born in Utica New York , died in Cold Spring, New York in 1901 ( age 69 ) Buried at West Point although he never attended there. His father co-founded American Express and Daniel worked there after the war. He was chief of staff to General Hooker , and then to Meade at Gettysburg. The headquarters of Hooker and Butterfield at Fredericksburg, to the disgust of many fellow generals, was described as a combination “bar and brothel”. Butterfield is credited with being the author of “Taps” , however this has been disputed by some military and musical historians.

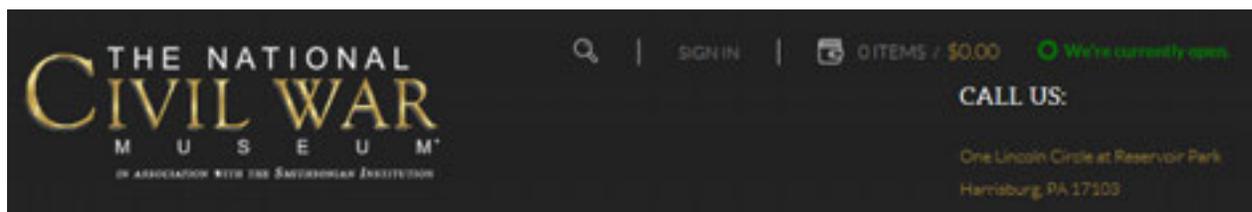
He was awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry at Gaines Mills, VA, June 27, 1862. After the war he was appointed Assistant Treasurer of the United States , by President Ulysses S. Grant. He was involved in the panic of 1869 , Black Friday, on September 1869 , when Fisk and Gould tried and failed to corner the market in gold.



**Major General George Gordon Meade** He was a career U.S. Army officer, so what did he do after the American Civil War? And by the way, the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia has Gen'l Meade's horse's head mounted and stuffed on display. Can't top that one. Meade was admitted to Pennsylvania Society of the Cincinnati. He was commissioner of Fairmont Park in Phil. He received an honorary degree in law from Harvard. He was on the one-thousand-dollar Treasury notes, also called Coin notes , of the Series 1890 and 1891. He refused to join MOLLUS, was made a member posthumously.



PLANNING A TRIP TO CIVIL WAR MUSEUM? HERE ARE A COUPLE SUGGESTIONS.....



# New England Civil War Museum & Library

*HONOR. REMEMBER. PRESERVE.*