

THE FLAGBEARER

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

...2018 promises to be another excellent year of interesting speakers. They include Kate Ramirez , the noted Mary Surratt living historian, visiting in October, Col. Kevin Weddle from the Army War College in September, the return of Megan Kate Nelson , a favorite with our Round Table, in November, Susan B. Smith on Stonewall Jackson's horse, Little Sorrel, in March , and Carlton Young introducing his newest book, Voices from the Attic, visiting next April, and of course, the return of Chuck Veit, in Jan, noted Civil War Naval expert.

Please be sure we are on your calendar.

New email address? Please let me know of your change.Bob

bobbylee76@comcast.net



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Cell # 508-542-7630

Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table

Annual Holiday Party and Book Raffle

Tues, December 19, 2017 6:00 pm **** note start time**

At Me and Ed's Restaurant



Have you made your reservations for the Holiday Part? I hope so. Time is running out and we want to see you at Me and Ed's Restaurant . I have attached the reservation form and instructions, for your convenience. The book raffle promises to be another major event , with everyone taking home something to read. Me and Ed's Restaurant owner and chef, Cory Lorencio , as always, will lay out a wonderful buffet. And Larry Roy will provide the music. Throughout our program season, we spend very little time getting to know one another at the monthly meetings. At the Holiday Party , there is time to get to know your fellow amateur historians.

Please also consider bringing a guest or inviting someone you think may be interested in Civil War history. We are always looking to spread the word throughout New Bedford about our organization.

If you have never been to Me and Ed's Restaurant, set your GPS for 30 Brock Avenue, New Bedford , in the south end. We will most likely have our dinner in the lower level of the restaurant. **AND PLEASE NOTE THE START TIME OF 6:00 PM**

Last minute details or reservations? Call Bob Lytle at 508-542-7630.



Fort Massachusetts , Washington , D.C. 1861 (later renamed Ft Stevens

The West Point Class of 1846

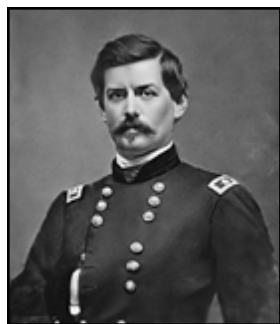
By Peter Rioux , Member of the New Bedford Civil War Round Table

The Class of 1846 ranks as the most highly acclaimed and honored among the many outstanding graduating classes at the United States Military Academy. This largest of classes at that time consisted of 59 graduates, including 22 generals (12 Union, 10 Confederate) who experienced leadership command during this country's most consequential experience, the American Civil War. A tragic legacy of the war was the continuing emotional burden it placed upon those who had once been close friends, colleagues and fellow classmates and who were later required to wage deadly conflict with each other. They had once shared their lives as young cadets and aspiring leaders and then were thrust into a position only fifteen years later to defeat and perhaps take these lives from each other as hardened and experienced commanders.

The most prominent of the 1846 graduates were Union Major General George McClellan (Class rank # 2), Confederate Lieutenant General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson (Class rank # 17), Confederate Major General George Pickett (Class rank last at # 59), Union Major General Darius Couch (Class rank # 13), Union Major General George Stoneham (Class rank # 32), Confederate Major General Cadmus Wilcox (Class rank #54) and Lieutenant General A. P. Hill (Graduated in 1847 after a one year illness). Class file ranking was important for cadets in that it was often a direct factor for the later determination of highly valued and sought assignments and promotions.

In respect to his experience at West Point, McClellan was accepted for entry at the early age of fifteen. Almost immediately, he was highly liked and respected by his fellow classmates and thought by his teachers to have the greatest potential for subsequent military success.

Jackson was one of the last cadets chosen for entry replacing a selectee who withdrew soon after



acceptance, While a young cadet, Jackson was often ridiculed at the Academy by some fellow classmates for his seriousness, diligence, and no nonsense demeanor, which he unfailingly applied in an effort to overcome his limited prior formal education. He had been raised on a farm by his father's brother after being orphaned at the age of seven. As a young plebe, McClellan, upon first seeing Jackson's visibly stern manner, stated to fellow cadets that "he looks like he's come to stay." Jackson became a roommate of George Stoneham and gained increasing respect among his classmates as he advanced through his cadet years. Many of Jackson's teachers felt that at his demonstrated rate of progress during his four years, he would have likely finished at a file class ranking of first if he had attended one more year at the Academy.

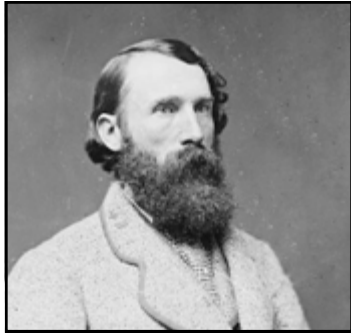
George Pickett was accepted at the Academy shortly after his appointing congressman received a strong recommendation from a fellow Illinois politician, Abraham Lincoln. He became close and long lasting friends with McClellan, once stating at the end of the war that he (McClellan) "was, is, and always will be, even with his pistol pointing at my heart, my closest friend."

During the war, McClellan was revered by his troops, and despite demonstrating superior planning and organizational skills, was dismissed twice by Lincoln as Commander of the Army of the Potomac for failure to demonstrate sufficient combat aggressiveness. While displaying genuine affection for his men, he often conveyed an attitude of arrogance and superiority directed toward Lincoln as well as Secretary of War Stanton.

Jackson (often referred to as "Old Jack") achieved real success at Bull Run and further acclaim for his quick strike tactics during the Shenandoah Valley Campaign and at Chancellorsville through his historically praised right flanking maneuver. However, Jackson's sense of duty did not prevent him from charging fellow classmate A. P. Hill, whom Jackson felt was too lighthearted while at West Point, for neglect of duty at Antietam, a charge that Hill continu-



ously refuted through his direct appeals to Lee. Yet, upon Jackson's mortal wounding by friendly fire at Chancellorsville in May 1863, Hill was one of the first to arrive at Jackson's side to comfort him. Hill commanded six brigades at Chancellorsville and later the Third Infantry Corps at Gettysburg, a corps which suffered the largest extent of casualties by either side in this battle. He was later killed at the Battle of Petersburg in early April 1865.



Fellow classmate Darius Couch served as a Corps Commander under McClellan, delayed the Confederate advance at Gettysburg, later pursued Lee into Maryland and maintained the defense of Washington, D.C.. After the war, he ran unsuccessfully for Governor of Massachusetts. He is buried in **Taunton, MA**. Another classmate, George Stoneham, served as Chief of Cavalry during the Peninsula Campaign, led a raid after Chancellorsville that unintentionally



prevented Jackson's wife from reaching him after being wounded, commanded the Third Corps at Fredericksburg and was captured at Atlanta for three months. He later served as Governor of California for two terms.

George Pickett led the charge against the Union corps commanded by fellow classmate John Gibbon at Cemetery Ridge. Despite his low class ranking at West Point, McClellan once said of Pickett that "he was the best infantry soldier on either side." Classmate Cadmus Wilcox supported Pickett's right flank at Gettysburg, served in the Third Corps under A.P. Hill, held the Union at Chancellorsville to protect Lee's flank and was even shot through his clothing six times during the war but never physically wounded. After the war, four Union generals served as pallbearers at his funeral.

On April 9, 1865, while awaiting Lee and Grant's arrival at Appomattox to complete the formal surrender, many former classmates who had later served both the Union and Confederacy shared stories of their experiences, recalled earlier fond times at the Academy and commiserated with each other at the pain of the loss they had all experienced and a sense of the burden they would all carry for the rest of their lives.

Sources:

The Class of 1846 by John C. Waugh

1780 Farmhouse.com

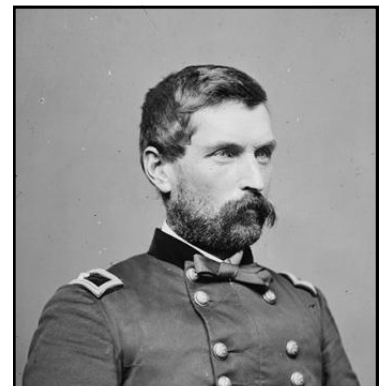
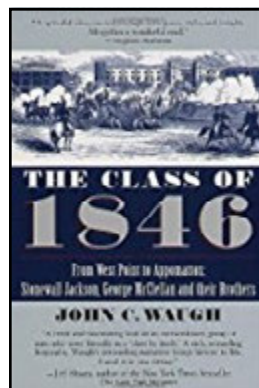
West Point Classmates, Civil War Enemies – American Civil War Roundtable of Australia



Maj General Jesse Reno



General Cadmus Wilcox

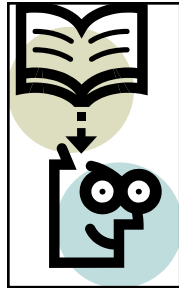


Brig. General John Gibbon

**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, Apponequet 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.



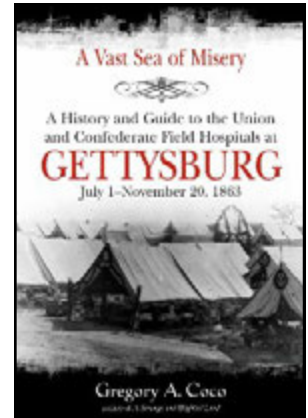
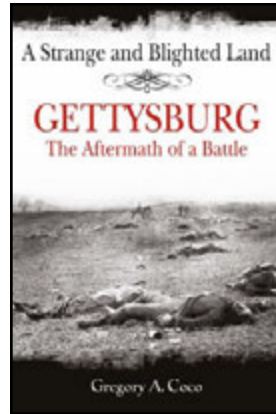
Good to see our good friend and Round Table member, Mark Mello, working the Holidays at the National Park Service office in downtown New Bedford.



OTHER CIVIL WAR NEWS



TWO NEW BOOKS FROM SAVAS BEATTY



The Friends of Gettysburg , and The Gettysburg Foundation announces its Spring Muster April 20,21,and 22, 2018 at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center.

Kick off the Spring Muster weekend with a lively historical discussion Friday night with noted members of the Gettysburg Foundation Historians Council. Panelists will debate some of the controversies surrounding the Battle of Gettysburg both in 1863 and today. For more information visit www.gettysburgfoundation.org or call 717-339-2148

Here is a bit of a story. The Franklin Tenn. CWRT recently celebrated its 10th Anniversary as an organization. The membership boasts 100 members , including 21 with PhD's, a former U.S. Ambassador, an Under Secretary of State, 24 published authors, 20 historical site directors, and three National Park Rangers. All this began in 2007, with a small group meeting in a bookstore. Must be something in the water down there....Bob

Who were the Minutemen of 1861 ?

On April 15, 1861, newly elected President Abraham Lincoln, upon receiving news of the bombardment at Fort Sumter, issued a call for 75,000 volunteer troops, to be mustered into service for 90 days, to put down the rebellion. In Massachusetts, war governor, John Andrew, issued the call for 1,500 men. The following regiments were ready ; - Third Mass Reg, Fourth Mass



Group photo of the Minute Men of 1861, photographed in 1897

Reg., Fifth Mass Reg., Sixth Mass Reg., Eight Mass Reg., Third Battalion Mass Riflemen, First Battery of Lt Artillery. The Third Mass reported to Boston with an incomplete roster of 7 out of 10 companies. Col. David W. Wardrop of New Bedford was in command. The third Mass arrived at Fortress Monroe Virginia the morning of April 20. They were immediately loaded onto ships and taken to the Gosport Navy Yard in Hampton Roads at Norfolk. With this, the Third claimed to be the first Union troops to make an incursion into Confederate territory. With this 90 day service, the men of New Bedford that drilled as militia with Col. Wardrop, and mustered into the Union Army were henceforth called the Minutemen of 1861, and proudly wore the medal shown below. Col. Wardrop went on to have an outstanding career in the Union Army.



....FROM THE CIVIL WAR TRUST WEBSITE A NEW VIDEO IS AVAILABLE DEPICTING PICKETT'S CHARGE ENHANCED WITH NARRATION AND SPECIAL EFFECTS. PLEASE TAKE TIME AND VISIT THE CIVIL WAR TRUST WEBSITE.



VIDEO
The Gettysburg Cyclorama in 360°

I quote from the book "Lincoln in the Telegraph Office", by David Homer Bates, 1907 edition

Bates was the manager of the War Department office, and cipher operator, 1861-1866

As you know Abraham Lincoln was a daily visitor to the War Dept Telegraph office, reading dispatches as they arrive. This office was also his refuge from the daily grind of his White House office.

Bates tells what he believes is Lincoln's last humorous anecdote told on the morning of April 13, 1865.

After reading important information contained in two dispatches, that contained important information and that was couched in very laconic terms. Mr. Lincoln turned, with a smile, to Mr. Tinker, the operator, and said,

"Mr. Tinker, that reminds me of the old story of the Scotch country girl on her way to market with a basket of eggs for sale. She was fording a small stream in scant costume, when a wagoner approached from the opposite bank and called: 'Good morning, my lassie; how deep's the brook, and what's the price of eggs?' "Knee deep and a sixpence,' answered the little maid, who gave no further attention to her questioner." David Homer Bates

New Bedford Civil War Round Table

2017- 2018 Membership/Dues Renewal Form

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

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

Name(s): _____ (Please PRINT clearly)

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

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Date: _____