



# THE FLAGBEARER

Many of you enjoyed the November presentation , - Megan Kate Nelson—the Civil War in the Southwest. You may wish to follow her Blog , - HISTOR-ISTA.

...from the *Whaling City.net*

...April 18, 1861...Cyrus W. Chapman was appointed post-master of New Bedford and the Free Delivery Service for mail was inaugurated

...1861 **The Fifth Street School** in New Bedford was said to be the first school in America to fly the American flag every day starting May 11, 1861. In 1871 Betsy B. Winslow was a teacher there at a salary of \$525.00 per year

...1863 ...”Men of Color” numbering about 52 joined the 54th and 55th regiments and several more joined the US Navy and the 5th Cavalry. Recruiting was done on the corner of William Street and Acushnet Ave, \$25.00 was given to each family of those men who were recruited by a committee.

...1866 The imposing “Soldiers and Sailors” Monument at Common Park was dedicated.

## Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table

Tuesday, **February 23, 2016, 7:00 pm**

Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum



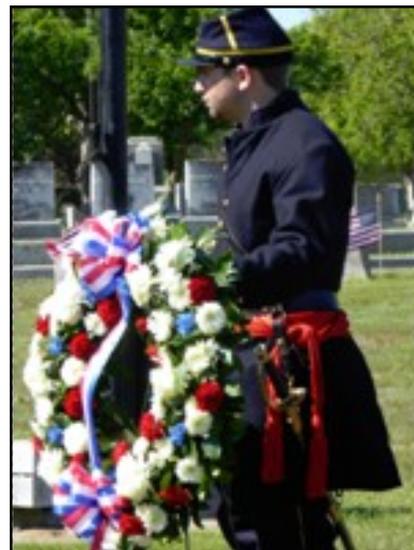
### MEET THE FEBRUARY SPEAKER , - MARK MELLO

Mark Mello returns to our Round Table as a speaker for the 3rd or 4th time. He has been a member our organization for several years, and regularly participates in our annual Memorial Day Ceremony at Rural Cemetery. (note the picture)

Mark’s lecture will cover events at the Devil’s Den , Gettysburg;- the second day. When Mark and I first talked about scheduling this talk for this month , it was last September , and I was standing in the Devil’s Den famous triangle field, listening to a Gettysburg Park Ranger discuss this part of the battle. Very ironic.

The Triangular Field is a backdrop for the back and forth struggle that occurred between the 124th New York Regiment , and the 1st Texas Regiment.

The 124th New York , Ill Corps, 1st Div, 2nd Brigade under Brig Gen’l Hobart Ward was in a very tough spot during the afternoon of July 2nd. Mark’s presentation will take us back in time and will follow eight men from those regiments that fought and died in Devil’s Den. Mark’s feeling is that by studying their stories, we will gain a new appreciation for the intense fighting that occurred on that fateful afternoon in July, and with that knowledge , we will learn of the long-term ramifications of the fighting there.



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 508-542-7630

#### News from the Round Table.....

*It is time for annual dues. We thank all of you that have taken the time to send in your dues payment. Most all of your dues is put into the Round Table Scholarship Fund . The Scholarship Committee will soon begin its work on selecting a deserving candidate for this year’s award.*

*The January meeting , Al Smith’s Lincoln’s Funeral lecture, was very well attended, and included several new potential members. We thank you for the excellent turnout and support.*

*We are non profit, open to all, no charges to attend the lectures, and fun for all who wish to learn history.*

[The New Bedford Civil War Roundtable | To preserve and ...](http://www.newbedfordcwr.org)  
[www.newbedfordcwr.org/](http://www.newbedfordcwr.org)

#### 2016 Speakers

February 23	Mark Mello
March 22	James Conroy
April 26	John Rodrique
May 24	John Foskett
June 28	Picnic
July-Aug	Vacation
September 27	Matthew Cost
October 25	David Prentiss
November 15	Megan Kate Nelson
December 13	Holiday Dinner

Boston Civil War Round Table's Al Smith is planning a tour and visit to **The Springfield Armory National Historic Site** on March 5th. He will arrange a 15 passenger van ( bigger if needed ) to depart from the T stop at Riverside. This will be a 1 day visit. For details or reservations , call me .....Bob Lytle 508-542-7630



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.....**News from the Civil War Trust**

Almost all of us in the New Bedford Civil War Round support, in some way, the fine efforts of the Civil War Trust. I am going to include a few remarks from the year end report of the Trust President, Jim Lighthizer.

“ As you may have seen in our year end video, 2015 was another remarkable year for the Civil War Trust. Thanks to the generosity of tens of thousands of members and the dedication of partners nationwide, we were able to protect nearly 1,700 acres of land at 29 battlefields in 13 states. This includes 44 acres at the epicenter of Antietam and 118 acres at Mill Springs, as well as the site of Gen. Lee’s headquarters at Gettysburg, the second largest acquisition in Trust history.

Just as exceptional, the conclusion of our sesquicentennial Campaign 150 fundraising effort raised an unprecedented \$52.5 million, that’s \$12.5 million more than our original goal! These funds have helped us preserve more than 10,000 acres of hallowed ground during the Civil War’s 150th anniversary.

Find out more about the Trust’s achievements, as well as the partners in preservation who make our success possible.”

Visit “Civil War Trust” [info@civilwar.org](mailto:info@civilwar.org)

**Definitions of Civil War Terms– Part 2**

**Buck and ball**—This musket load, to be relied on in a defensive situation, was made up of 3 large buckshot bound on top of a .69-caliper, smoothbore musket ball and was encased in a paper cartridge like those used with the Minie bullet. The .69 caliber musket ( most often found in Confederate ranks, but not preferred) was an inaccurate weapon that could be converted to good use at close range with this load. The use of the buck and ball was not common.

**Case Shot**—Properly, case shot refers to grape shot, canister, or spherical case shot, an artillery round that purposely breaks apart on firing and is used as an anti-personnel load. Most often in Civil War literature, references to case shot imply spherical case, a round invented in 1784 by English artilleryman Lt. Henry shrapnel. It was an iron sphere filled with bits or balls of iron and a bursting charge intended to break apart shortly after firing. Its effective range was 500-1,500 yards.

**Demonstration**—In this strategic maneuver, used frequently in the Civil War, a detached unit from the main force made a show of strength on a portion of the enemy’s line not actually targeted for attack, distracting the enemy while an attack was made elsewhere. Demonstrations were useful to large bodies of troops as well as small ones.

**Echelon Attack**—A refused advance on an enemy position, meaning that the advance occurred in sequence from right to left or vice-versa in parallel but nonaligned formations; ideally an echelon attack would compel the reinforcement of those parts of the enemy line first assailed thereby to weaken the latter parts and increase the chances of breaching them, but more frequently such an attack became disorganized and faltered in confusion.

**Haversack**—A white canvas bag about a foot square, the haversack held the Civil War soldier’s daily rations, slung on a strap over the right shoulder, it had a waterproof lining and a flap that buckled over its top, and hung on the left hip. Some custom-made officers and militia models, were made of patent leather. Most had a number or other company identification painted or stenciled on them.

**Hors de combat**—Civil War era Americans thought French the language of war, not love. In contemporary literature, a wounded soldier was said to have been rendered hors de combat, or—out of combat.

**Lunette**—A 2 or 3 sided field fort, its rear open to interior lines, was called a lunette. Lunettes were often named in honor of battery commanders or a commanding brigadier general.

.....News from the "Friends of Gettysburg"

March 19th: *Encounters with History*

**Monuments that Place Gettysburg in the Greater Context of the War**, with Gettysburg National Park Ranger **Troy Harman**.

This *Encounters with History* seminar is a half-day indoor and outdoor program. Lunch is not provided. A lecture will be held from 9:00 am to 10:00 am in the Ford Education center in the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitors Center followed by an outdoor field walk with moderate walking from 10:00 to 12:30 pm. Gettysburg features several monuments and memorials that place the battle in context with the war's overall meaning. They transcend the battle itself to communicate layered truths easily missed without proper perspective. This presentation will go beyond basic facts, dates of dedication and construction materials to decode monumental messages intended to reverberate through time.



**April 15 & 16, 2016 : Spring Muster**

Held at the Gettysburg National Military park Museum and Visitor Center.

Join the Friends of Gettysburg for our Annual Spring Muster, a weekend long event featuring battlefield tours, special programs, and evening banquet, and an abundance of friends camaraderie !



**The Patton Genealogy**

George Smith Patton Jr. was born on November 11, 1885 in San Gabriel, California. The family was of Irish, Scots-Irish, English, and Welsh ancestry. Patton's ancestry was more than just genealogy to him. It included his heroes and role models; he communed with them in times of crisis, emulated them, and sensed how they beckoned him to his destiny. His imagination blended past and present; he believed he had former lives as a soldier and took pride in deep mystical ties with his warrior ancestors.



Though not directly descended from George Washington, Patton traced some of his English colonial roots to George Washington's great-grandfather. He was also descended from England's King Edward, through Edward's son Edmund of Woodstock, 1st Earl of Kent. The first Patton in America was born Robert Patton in Ayr, Ayrshire Scotland, who emigrated to Culpepper Virginia, from Glasgow Scotland in either 1769 or 1770. George was also descended from Hugh Mercer, who had been killed in the Battle of Princeton during the American Revolution. Patton's paternal grandfather was Colonel George Smith Patton who commanded the Confederate 22nd Virginia Infantry under Jubal early in the Civil War and was killed in the Third battle of Winchester, while his great uncle Colonel Walter T. Patton was killed leading the Confederate 7th Virginia Infantry in Pickett's Charge during the Gettysburg battle. Patton was schooled in Pasadena California, loved military history, and learned Civil War first hand from family friend John Singleton Mosby, "The Grey Ghost". At the ranch they would recreate battles, Mosby playing himself and Patton playing Robert E. Lee

**NEW BEDFORD CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

**2016 MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is valid from January to December. Please fill out this form, with a check made out to "***New Bedford CWRT***", and mail to ***Barbara Bedell, Treasurer, New Bedford Civil War Round Table, 74 Hidden Bay Drive, South Dartmouth, MA 02748***

***Annual fee is \$25.00 for individual and \$30.00 for a family***

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## What is a Civil War Round Table?

We have several new members and visitors to our organization. Perhaps it would be helpful to review what is it we do. I have been asked, "do we sit at a round table?" Civil War Round Tables (or CWRT ) are a loosely organized group of independent organizations that share a common interest in the study, promotion, and recognition of the American Civil War. The oldest such group in the United States is the Civil War Round Table of Chicago based in Illinois.

There are many such organizations throughout the U.S., with some in other countries as well. There is no national organization to coordinate the activities and publicity of the individual round tables, although most follow a similar format of a monthly meeting ( some include a dinner), announcements of local Civil War events and activities, a guest speaker ( usually an author, battlefield preservationist, historian, re-enactor , or other expert ).

The meeting may also feature raffles, book signings, door prizes, auctions, fund raisers, and other similar activities. Some CWRT groups sponsor battlefield preservation events, battle walks, excursions, tours, and other "sanctioned" events.

In our region , there are round tables in Providence, Boston , Brockton, Dedham, Lynn, Central Mass, North Worcester/Leominster, and Brunswick Maine , to name a few.

The New Bedford Civil War Round Table started with just a handful of members , in or about 2007. In January 2016 we probably had 35-40 members present. At least 10-12 snowbirds were not present. We're growing in numbers. We appreciate your support , it is a pleasure to serve your interest in history. We are working very hard to bring to you quality speakers that will further round out your knowledge in the American Civil War

We meet the fourth Tuesday of the month at Fort Taber/Fort Rodman's Military Museum..... Bob

...Based on Wikipedia article



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## The Horse in the Civil War

...excerpts from Deborah Grace's article.

Although few people realize it the horse was the backbone of the Civil War.

Horses moved guns and ambulances, carried generals and messages, and usually gave all they had. The

total number of horses and mules killed in the War mounts up to more than a one million. It is the great misfortune of horses that they can be saddle-broken and tamed. If the horse was more like an ox, not suited for riding, the war would have been drastically different. But no mattered what the horses were put through, they soldiered on. Whether plodding through choking dust, struggling through mud, rushing



up to a position at a gallop, or creeping backward in a fighting withdrawal, the horses did what they had to do. They served their master. At the start of the war, the Northern states held approximately 3.4 million horses, while there were 1.7 million in the Confederate states. In addition there were approximately an additional 800,000 in the border states. The average price of a horse was \$150.00. Occasionally high class horses were found, but, the reverse was commonly true.



The horses selected for military service needed to fit the requirements, for example, of artillery service. From John Gibbon's diary:

"The horse for artillery service should be from fifteen to sixteen hands high...should stand erect on his legs, be strongly built, but free in his movements; his shoulders should be strong enough to give support to the collar but too heavy; his body full, but not too long; the sides well rounded; the limbs solid with rather strong shanks, and the feet in good condition. To these qualities he should unite, as much as possible, the qualities of a saddle horse; should trot and gallop easily, have even gaits and not be skittish."

At the conclusion of their training, the horses had to pass one final test that determined their suitability. On a command the riders dismounted and directed their horse to lie down. Gunners would fire bullets over their heads. Horses that panicked and jumped up were killed prompted and released from further duty.