

# THE FLAGBEARER

## Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table

Tuesday, September 25, 2018, 7:00 pm

We will meet at our usual meeting location at the Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum

1000C Rodney French Blvd, New Bedford, MA

Event is no charge, open to the public

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

Summer is coming to a close. It is time to think about our Fall schedule. Programs and speakers are set for the remainder of 2018 and through May of 2019. So we move forward with the monthly Flagbearer. I'm working with a new computer and Windows 10. It has been a struggle.

You membership renewal for the new program season, beginning September 1, 2018 is due. Please see page 4 on where to send your check.

Please consider talking to your friends about joining our Round Table.

On page 2, I will cover some interesting additions to our speaker schedule. We are covering a talk on the Revolutionary War, and on the New Bedford boys who were part of the famed Yankee Division in World War 1.

Plus, Kate Taylor will come to New Bedford in October, doing a first person living historian presentation as Mary Surratt, Lincoln co-conspirator.

Meet our September speaker

**Col. Kevin J. Weddle,**

Ph. D. U.S. Army War College , Carlisle , Pa.

Professor of Military Theory and Strategy

Dept of Distance Education

Tuesday, September 25, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

**"Prelude 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, **7:00 p.m.** to the Historical Society. Plan on attending that presentation also.



Col. Kevin J. Weddle, Ph.D

Professor of Military Theory and Strategy

U.S. War College

Carlisle, PA

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

- **Do we have your email address?** We are communicating with you more and more via email. While the Flagbearer is published once a month, there are historical happenings we'd like to tell you about during the month. We can get the word out to you by email. Are you getting our email now? That's great. But if you know you are not on our email file list , please take the time right now and send it to me.... Bob Lytle [bobbylee76@comcast.net](mailto:bobbylee76@comcast.net)
- **Have you checked out our website?** Find us at [flagbearer@nbcwrt.org](mailto:flagbearer@nbcwrt.org)
- **Are we covering topics that interest you?** If not, please email me your suggestions. I'll be soon be working on our Fall 2019 lineup of speakers
- **Did you receive my email on the Olde Colony Civil War Round Table Annual Jubilee Dinner, Oct 25th?** Five from our Round Table have already signed up. If you would like to go, call me. Bob Lytle 508-542-7630

### 2018-2019 Executive Board

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Cell # 508-542-7630

[bobbylee76@comcast.net](mailto:bobbylee76@comcast.net)

**SAVE THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR**

**October 23, 2018**

**\*\*\*\*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 Historical Park, NPS downtown New Bedford., in the main auditorium. We thank the NPS for their support.*

**October 23, 2018 , 7:00 p.m.**

**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 or Not Guilty???*



**KATE RAMIREZ is now KATE TAYLOR**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thursday, September 13, 2018 7:00 p.m.**

**General Leonid E. Kondratuik  
Co-Chair Mass WW1 Centennial  
Commission**

**Lecture Topic: New Bedford’s  
2nd Field Artillery goes to  
France in WW1 with the famed  
Yankee Division.**



**UPCOMING SPEAKERS**

**November 13, 2018**

**Megan Kate Nelson returns.**

*She will feature her newest book , “Path of the Dead Man: How the West was Won,- and Lost- during the American Civil War.” Megan was recently honored as a recipient of a 2017 NEH Public Scholar Award. This is her 3rd or 4th appearance here.*



**Jan 22, 2019**

**David Prentiss**

*“The Civil War and the American Idea of Democracy*

*Great to have David back as a speaker.*



**April 23, 2019**

**Chuck Veit returns**

*This time Chuck will cover how the Union Navy prevented World War 1. What’s that you say? The Union Navy’s successful blockade of the Southern States and rapid build up of war ships gave pause to the Colonial powers of Europe in their contemplation of recognizing the South as a country.*



**Mar 26, 2019**

**Mark Mello**

**James Henry Gooding: The  
54th's Unsung Hero**



## Walt Whitman – Poet of the Civil War, by Peter Rioux, Round Table member

Walt Whitman is universally recognized as America's national poet. His compilation of poetry included in Leaves of Grass still resonates with readers over 170 years after its publication. However, few are aware of his experiences during the American Civil War, experiences that revealed the depth of his humanity and which inspired him to write some of the most evocative and moving descriptions of the horrors of war ever expressed.



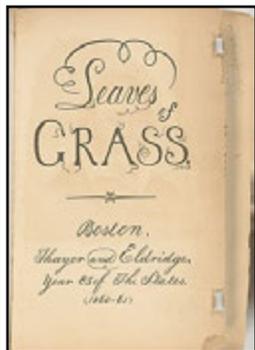
In 1861, Whitman's brother George had enlisted in the Union effort. When his name was published in The New York Herald among the wounded at the Battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862, Whitman hurried south to Washington, D.C. from his home in Brooklyn to find his brother. Fortunately, George was not seriously wounded.

However, while searching for his brother among multiple hospitals located in Washington, Whitman was profoundly moved as he saw first hand the physical condition of so many seriously wounded Union soldiers, some horribly disfigured, some with recent amputations, while others would shortly experience life's passing. This initial experience with the war's horrors inspired him to commit the next four years of his life to the servicing and care of the nation's wounded. As a nurse, he helped to transport wounded soldiers from various battlefields to a vast network of Washington military hospitals. He visited the wounded offering gifts, fruit, candy, books, paper, envelopes, and even some money that he could afford to provide. He would sit for hours with the wounded who were physically incapacitated comforting them and writing descriptive letters to their loved ones on their behalf. During the four year period of this tragic war, Whitman visited and assisted between 80 and 100,000 wounded through 600 tours of these hospitals.

While conducting his hospital visits, Whitman kept a personal journal which he entitled “Walt Whitman – Soldiers' Missionary” recording his impressions and conversations with the wounded he had met and his lasting memories of the deceased whom he had come to know as they approached the end of their lives. He would often publish newspaper articles describing his visits and the plight of the wounded in order to raise funds for these wounded.



Using his journal as inspiration, Whitman wrote a series of poems which evoked his war experiences, including them under the title “Drum Taps.” This series of war related poems became the centerpiece of his Leaves of Grass compilation. Whitman included a poem entitled “The Wound Dresser,” which vividly and painfully recalls his hospital visit experiences – the realities and horrors of war versus the impressions of its glory, the severe injuries of the wounded, and the ultimate importance of providing comfort and care to the wounded. Whitman's memorable words included in a portion of this poem are inscribed at the Dupont Circle Metro Station for future generations to appreciate: “Thus in silence in dreamers' projections, returning, resuming, I thread my way through the hospitals; the hurt and wounded I pacify with soothing hand, I sit by restless all the dark night - some are so young; some suffer so much – I recall the experience sweet and sad.”



As a result of his extensive service to the nation's wounded, he received a letter of commendation from the Chief Surgeon of the Army Square Hospital. “From my personal knowledge of Mr. Whitman's labors at the Army Square and other hospitals, I am of the opinion that no one person who assisted in the hospitals during the war accomplished so much good for the soldiers and for the government as Mr. Whitman.”

The Washington, D.C. Medical Clinic, known as the Whitman Walker Clinic, appropriately bears his name in honor of the inspiration of his words and the gentleness of his spirit.



**TIME TO SUBMIT 2018-019 MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Attention members !!!

The New Bedford Civil War Round Table program year for 2018-2019 is underway; Sept 2018 to June 2019. Your membership dues to the Round Table cover the same time frame. Dues are unchanged. We hope that you will continue your support. Without you, there is no Round Table. We have been working to deliver a new program year of excellent presenters. I believe you will be pleased with the proposed lineup. We have included a couple extra talks , in light of the fact that it is the anniversary of the cease fire of World War 1, Armistice Day, 2018. Also , Col, Weddle, in Sept, will deliver a Revolutionary War themed talk the night before he appears at the Civil War Round Table for his Antietam talk.

In addition, the New Bedford Civil War Round Table awards an annual scholarship to a graduating area high school senior. This money award is financed from your dues.

We are fortunate that we have an excellent location for our meetings;- the Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum. We are grateful to their Historical Association.

How many members do we have? Last year , just over 50. That's pretty good growth. We are now 11 years old as an organization. We hope that you will talk with your friends about joining our Round Table.

Please fill out the application below and renew your membership for the new year. Thank you.

*New Bedford Civil War Round Table*

*2018- 2019 Membership Form*

*Membership is valid for 2018-2019 Program year, beginning September 1, 2018. Please fill out this form, along with check payable to "New Bedford CWRT" and send to:*

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

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Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ (Please PRINT clearly)

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

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

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

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_