

THE FLAGBEARER

Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table

Tuesday, April 24, 2018, 7:00 pm

We meet at Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum

1000C Rodney French Blvd, New Bedford, MA

Lecture is no charge, open to all, plenty of parking

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

...The New Bedford Civil War Round Table will once again conduct a **Memorial Day Service** at Rural Cemetery at 9:00 a.m. **Saturday May 26**. The keynote speaker will again be New Bedford **Mayor Jon Mitchell**.

...Please encourage your friends to visit our website, shown above, and invite them to attend a meeting.

...When I first had contact with our April speaker, I was surprised to learn that he was a student at Westminster College, north of Pittsburgh. That is also where I grew up, - quite close by. Bob L.

...Please stay tuned into upcoming lectures at the Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum, beginning soon. They will cover the Revolutionary War, and World War 1. It is the 100th Anniversary of the 1918 WW1 Armistice. Three WW1 speakers have been scheduled thus far. I'll be emailing you the event details.

Meet Our April 24 Speaker

Carleton Young

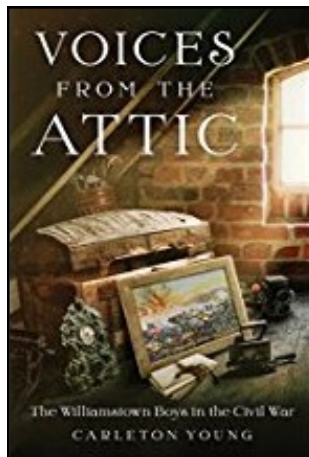
Carleton Young

Book author from Pittsburgh, PA

Voices from the Attic: The Williamstown Boys in the Civil War

Carleton Young has undergraduate degrees in Economics and English from Westminster College, in Western Pennsylvania, and Point Park University in Pittsburgh, PA, an MA in history from Ohio University, and his PhD in the History of Education from the University of Pittsburgh. For

37 years he taught AP American History at Thomas Jefferson High School in Pittsburgh. He also taught classes as an adjunct professor at Community College of Allegheny County, the University of Pittsburgh, Eastern gateway Community College, and in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Carnegie Mellon University.



Imagine clearing out your family attic and discovering an enormous collection of letters written by two soldiers during the Civil War, but not knowing why the letters were there. Faced with that situation, Carleton Young spent more than a decade visiting battlefields and re-

searching two Vermont soldiers. In Voices from the Attic: The Williamstown Boys in the Civil War, he tells the story of two brothers who witnessed and made history by fighting in the Peninsula Campaign, then at South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, and Cedar Creek. They then preserved that history through their surprisingly detailed and insightful letters.

"Voices From the Attic is a substantial contribution to the genre of first person Civil War accounts becoming so popular today....(and) would make a worthwhile addition to any Civil War student's bookshelf.".....Civil War News

"More than another good narrative, the book is an adventure of historical research and discovery."Vermont History Journal

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.....MORE NEWS FROM THE ROUND TABLE

Please mark your calendar to be present on May 26 for the Annual Civil War Round Table Memorial Day service . It will again be at Rural Cemetery on Dartmouth St, New Bedford. The ceremony will begin at 9:00 am.



June 26 is the date for our Annual Picnic at the Fort Taber~Fort Rodman facility , same as last year. More on this event as the time approaches.



Pop Quiz for Beginners

Name this all around "best in service" artillery piece.



And for the expert. It could hit a target at how many yards?

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

May 22, 2018

Joe Dipoli, Pres. Olde Colony Civil War Round Table

History of Fort Warren Prison in Boston Harbor

This is New England's most historic Civil War site.

Highlights include

...The Ghost of the Lady in Black

...Confederate Prison Life

...The Execution of Deserters



Fort Warren Boston

A special thanks to the members that arrive to our meetings early to help set up the room. It is very much appreciated. And the same to all of you that help put away the chairs , screen , podium , etc. and help put tables back in place at the museum. Thank you !!!



April 1862.....

The month opens with General McClellan moving his vast army to the Peninsula, nearer Richmond. Federal soldiers are on guard in Washington D.C. , and in the Shenandoah Valley and Western Virginia.

General Sidney Johnston, in command of the newly organized Confederate army at Corinth, Miss, issued orders for the movement and attack against General Grant's Federals at Pittsburg Landing, Tenn. The Battle of Shiloh gets underway.

President Lincoln, discovering less than 20,000 troops were left by Genera; McClellan to defend Washington, despite his directions to the contrary, instructed the Sec. of War to retain one Corps which was under orders to go to McClellan on the Peninsula. The General protests.

The Great Locomotive chase begins in Big Shanty Ga. Union volunteers under James J. Andrews, bent on breaking the vital rail line to Chattanooga, detached the locomotive, the *General*, and three freight cars and headed north. The chase lasted most of the day, as the Confederate pursued in the locomotive the *Texas*. North of Ringgold, Ga, the Yankees ran out of fuel, abandoned the locomotive , and took to the woods, where they were captured. Andrews and seven others were executed, eight eventually escaped , and six were finally paroled. As a military operation , it meant little; as an adventure story it ranked high.

Want to join the New Bedford Civil War Round Table?

2017-2018 Membership Form

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

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

Name: _____

Type of Membership: ____(\$25.00)Single, or ____(\$30.00)Family

Home Address: _____

Home phone: _____

Email: _____

SAVE THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR

******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 Park, NPS downtown New Bedford. We thank the NPS for their support.

October 23, 2018

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 ???



KATE RAMIREZ

The return of Col. Kevin J. Weddle, Ph. D. U.S. Army War College , Carlisle , Pa. , Professor of Military Theory and Strategy.

September 25, 2018 , " The Strategic Build-up 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 to the Historical Society. Plan on attending that presentation also.



Col. Kevin J Weddle, PhD



Horace Porter: Serving Grant, by Peter Rioux, New Bedford CW Round Table member

Superior competence and personal loyalty were two traits upon which Ulysses Grant placed the highest value. During Grant's military and political career, there were a few exceptional men who exemplified these qualities, none more than Horace Porter – a man who demonstrated such loyalty from the day he first met Grant until long after Grant's death.

Porter was born in Pennsylvania in 1837 and graduated from West Point in 1860 with a ranking of third in a class of 81. His father, David, had served as the Commonwealth's two term governor. Upon his graduation, Porter served as an artillery instructor, munitions supervisor and ordinance officer during the Union's successful assault on Fort Pulaski in Georgia, later serving in a similar capacity in the Army of Virginia under General McClellan. He exemplified superior management skills by proceeding to reorganize the ordinance departments while assigned in Virginia, Ohio and the Cumberland region. During the Battle of Chickamauga, Porter demonstrated heroic service by delaying the Confederate advance and enabling General Thomas to regroup his forces. For this military performance, he was later awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1902. The award sited the manner in which he “rallied enough fugitives from the broken lines to hold the ground under heavy fire long enough to effect the escape of wagon trains and batteries.”



In 1864, as a Lieutenant Colonel, Porter was assigned as Aide-de-Camp to General Grant serving in this capacity until the end of the war. In his book, Campaigning with Grant, which he later wrote in 1897, he provided his first impressions upon meeting Grant at Chattanooga; impressions that would briefly, but so accurately, express the essence of the General.

Porter wrote, “General Grant sat for some time as immovable as a rock and as silent as a sphinx, but listened attentively to all that was said. After awhile, he straightened himself up in his chair, his features assumed an air of animation, and in a tone of voice which manifested a deep interest in the discussion, he began to fire whole volleys of questions at the officers present. So intelligent were his inquiries, and so pertinent his suggestions, that he made a profound impression upon everyone by the quickness of his perception and the knowledge he had acquired.”

As their working relationship grew, Porter came to strongly admire Grant's well organized and prepared mind and his instant grasp of complicated logistical issues. Porter's description of Lee's Appomattox surrender serves as one of the most descriptive and vivid accounts ever recorded. In fact, it was Porter who suggested to Grant that he inform Lincoln and Stanton that the surrender event had successfully occurred.

Porter's strong and close working relationship with Grant continued upon the completion of the war when Grant served as Chief Military Commander and extending into the first term of the Grant Presidency serving as the President's personal secretary. Grant not only valued Porter's exceptional administrative competence, judgment and loyalty, but he viewed him, in effect, as a son. Porter's loyalty was clearly demonstrated when he refused a bribe of 500,000 dollars offered by financier and gold speculator Jay Gould during the gold price inflation scandal. After leaving the Grant Administration in 1873, Porter served as a Vice President of the Pullman Palace Car Company and President of the West Shore Railroad, positions that enabled him to become a wealthy man.

When Ulysses Grant died in July 1885, Horace Porter, at the request of the family, attended the private funeral service held at Mount McGregor where the General spent his last days courageously and pain-



takingly completing his personal memoirs. He also closely assisted the Grant family in determining an appropriate burial site for the General.

Porter's loyalty to Grant extended beyond the General's passing. In 1892, after the Grant Monument Association had failed in its attempt to raise sufficient funding to construct an appropriate monument and permanent burial site located at New York City's West Side, Porter gathered many of Grant's close friends and formed a more active fund-raising organization. He reduced the size of the board and operating costs, approached wealthy contributors to join the effort, wrote appeal letters to businesses and civic organizations, conducted a daily publicity campaign, and, using his immense oratorical skills, embarked on an aggressive public speaking campaign directed toward New Yorkers' sense of civic pride.



These aggressive efforts proved to be a success, in that they resulted in raising over 600,000 dollars. During the monument's construction, Porter negotiated the budget, selected contractors, oversaw the final design, and even selected some of the significant construction materials (i.e. granite from Maine, marble from Massachusetts). On April 27, 1897, Porter delivered the dedication speech at the formal opening of the Grant Monument. The National Park Service later referred to Porter as "the man most responsible for the Grant Monument."



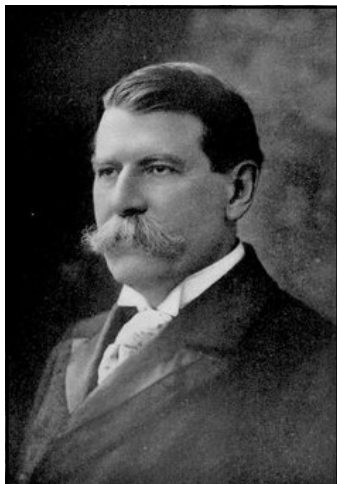
From 1897- 1905, Porter served as Ambassador to France, and while serving in this capacity, he was responsible for conducting the successful search for the lost grave of John Paul Jones. After completing an extensive and intense investigation and search, Porter finally located the grave in northeast Paris, coordinated the identification and certification of the body, and, at his own expense, brought the casket back to the United States where it was re-interred beneath the chapel of the United States Naval Academy.

General Porter died at the age of 84 in 1921, and he was buried in West Long Beach, New Jersey. For his funeral, this modest man expressed a simple wish for his service – a word, a song, and a prayer. In his will, he left the Grant Association 10,000 dollars and the American flag that flew over Grant's field headquarters during the Civil War, an expression of loyalty to the General that would extend long beyond his own death.



SOURCES:

Campaigning with Grant, Horace Porter
U.S. Grant- Ammerican Hero, American Myth, Joan Waugh
Ulysses Grant in War and Peace, H.W. Brands
Ulysses Grant-Soldier and President, Geoffrey Perret
Grant, Ron Chernow
Horace Porter Obituary, New York Times





1914-1918



Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Historical Association

Restoration, preservation and perpetuation of Fort Rodman and its surroundings.

Fort Taber Military Museum Announces Lecture Series Commemorating WW1 Armistice

The host organization for the New Bedford Civil War Round Table, is the Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Historical Association, the Military Museum. Since the beginning of our Round Table, we have held our meetings at the Military Museum on the fourth Tuesday of the month. We recently learned that the Historical Association will host a lecture series on World War 1, to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the end of the "Great War". It is only fitting and proper that we bring this to the attention of the Civil War Round Table members. The assumption is that you are interested in our nation's history, and would want to support the upcoming lecture series with your presence at the Museum to hear very interesting talks on a variety of WW1 topics.

World War 1 is book ended by our Civil War and WW2, and is often forgotten. However, one cannot fully appreciate the rich history of our country without a good understanding of the "War to End All Wars", WW1. It was the reluctant entry into WW1 that made the difference in the Allied Victory. Why do I say reluctant? The memory of the carnage of the Civil War maybe had something to do with this reluctance. And as you already know, the "Armistice" of WW1 led to the military build up in Germany that resulted in WW2.

What is on tap for you in this lecture series? Joe Langlois, President of the Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Historical Association, and President of the New Bedford Civil War Round Table is arranging a quality line up speakers for this 100th Year WW1 Commemoration. Here's what is scheduled thus far.

....Thursday May 10 @ 7:00 pm.....Joe Yukna from the Cape Cod Military Museum. His talk will be on the "Yankee Division" in France

....Thursday June 14 @ 2:00 pm...Mark Wilkins, Book author from the Cape. His talk will be "WW1 Flying Aces"

....Thursday July 12 @ 7:00 pm...Peggi Medeiros, New Bedford historian. Her talk will be on "New Bedford families and WW1".

...Thursday Sept 13, Time TBD....General Leonid E. Kondratiuk, Co-chair of the Massachusetts WW1 Centennial Commission, and Director of History for the Massachusetts National Guard. His presentation will cover the New Bedford's 2nd Field Artillery, which became the 102nd FA Regt, 26th Division and the Mass National Guard's 55th Coast Artillery of the 26th Division in France.

We are working our way through the summer months and into October, and finally November 11; - the 11th Month, the 11th Day, the 11th hour, the Armistice is signed. Stay tuned.....Bob Lytle