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

....from the Whaling City.net

...April 18, 1861...Cyrus W. Chapman was appointed postmaster 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.

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.

www.newbedfordcwr.org | To preserve and...
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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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 caliper 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.

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**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!

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**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

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 matter 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.