

THE FLAGBEARER

Greater New Bedford Ma Civil War Round Table

Tuesday January 26, 2019 7:00 pm

at the Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum

1000c Rodney French Blvd. New Bedford

Open to the public , no fees

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

...Paid your dues? We hope so. We depend upon your support for our scholarship program.

...Do we have your email address? If not, please send it to info@newbedfordcwr.org

...Have you submitted the name of your Civil War ancestor to me? I'll do some research and feature them in an upcoming Flagbearer. Bob Lytle

...Have a favorite Civil War topic or battle? Let me know and I will feature it in a future Flagbearer.

...We need help setting up the meeting room at the Museum for the Feb meeting. Can you arrive at 6:30 and help with chairs and the moving of tables? Thank you !!



Meet our February 26 speaker

Thomas G. Nester, PhD

Associate Professor

History Department

Bridgewater State University



Thomas G. Nester, PhD

Bridgewater State University

Tom's presentation will be very interesting. He has titled it , "The Cavalry Against the Klan".

I heard this presentation last year at the monthly meeting of the Olde Colony Civil War Round Table, and was very impressed with the new information highlighted in his talk. I invited

him to the New Bedford Civil War Round Table. For those of you that study Reconstruction, his visit and lecture will be very enlightening. We look forward to seeing you Tuesday, February 26.

2018-2019 Executive Board

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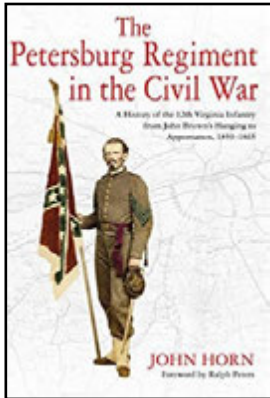
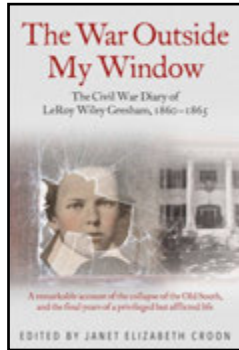
bobbylee76@comcast.net

Congratulations to Mark Mello , New Bedford Civil War Round Table Executive Board member, Graduate student, and local NPS Park Ranger. Mark has been promoted to the newly created Park Ranger/Park Historian position at Blackstone Valley National Historical Park, (NPS). This is a newly created park , and Mark has been selected to oversee the development of programing, staffing, production of exhibits, and guest experiences for this new park. Mark has been active with our organization for many years and it is with much pleasure we offer our congratulations on this well deserved promotion.



New books for you to consider

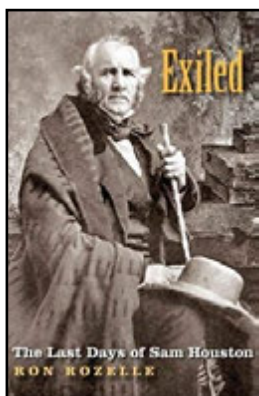
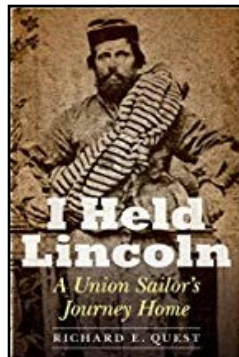
The War Outside My Window: The Civil War Diary of LeRoy Wiley Gresham, 1860-1865, edited by Janet Croon



The Petersburg Regiment in the Civil War: A History of the 12th Virginia Infantry from John Brown's Hanging to Appomattox, 1859-1865 by John Horn

I Held Lincoln: A Union Sailor's Journey Home. By Richard E. Quest. Published by University of Nebraska Press

A sailor's visit to Ford's Theatre to see President Lincoln turns to horror.



Exiled: The Last Days of Sam Houston. By Ron Rozelle

Published by Texas A & M University Press

Spring 2019 Speaker Lineup

Mar 26, 2019

Mark Mello , Park Ranger



James Henry Gooding: The 54th's Unsung Hero

April 23, 2019

Chuck Veit returns

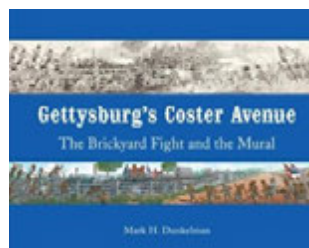
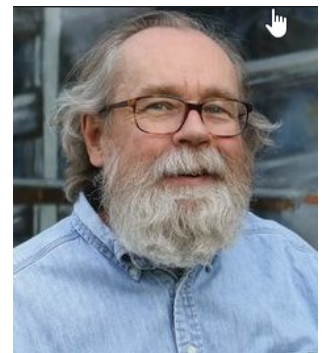


This time Chuck will cover how the Union Navy prevented World War 1. What's that you say? The Union Navy's successful blockade of the Southern States and rapid build up of war ships gave pause to the Colonial powers of Europe in their contemplation of recognizing the South as a country.

May 28, 2019

Mark H. Dunkelmann

Mark's latest book on the fighting that took place near the end of the first day, July 1 , on Coster Avenue.



Meet Herman Haupt. He was born in 1817, in Philadelphia, a child prodigy and mechanical genius. He graduated from West Point at age 18. He published engineering treatises on bridge construction while in his twenties. Three months after his West Point graduation, he resigned his commission and entered the field of railroad engineering. He designed or constructed important railroad segments, tunnels, and bridges throughout New England and Pennsylvania. His story is truly interesting, but his



Herman Haupt

role in the Civil War was most remarkable. He was summoned to Washington and made superintendent of the U.S. Military Railroads. He wanted no title, rank, or uniform, and no compensation, although it did not quite play out that way, he did develop a reputation for telling Generals to “go to hell”. On May 28, 1862, President Lincoln visited one of Haupt’s bridges over Potomac Creek. He observed: “That man Haupt has built a bridge four hundred feet long and one hundred feet high, across Potomac Creek, on which loaded trains are passing every hour, and upon my word, gentlemen, there is nothing in it but cornstalks and beanpoles.”

Haupt played a role in the famous story that played out in Lincoln’s office after the third day at Gettysburg. Haupt had rushed to Washington and to Lincoln’s office with the first hand story of how Meade did not intend to pursue Lee in a vigorous manner, that Meade had Lee in a trap, and must be in a desperate way. This led to a series of telegrams between Lincoln, Halleck, Stanton, and Meade, and the famous letter that Lincoln wrote to Meade and never sent.

A few months later Haupt left government service, having never signed his Brigadier's commission and submitting himself to army discipline.

He died on December 14, 1905, age 88, while traveling in a Pullman car, in Jersey City, New Jersey, and is buried in West Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia, PA.

The chances of war – General officers who died in the Civil War. Figures show that in the Union Army of 583 General officers, 47 died in combat or died of wounds and 18 died of disease or as the result of accidents. For the Confederates, of 425 general officers, 77 were killed in action or mortally wounded, and 15 died of disease or accident.

Among the leading Union officers killed were Maj. Gen. James McPherson, commander of the Army of the Tennessee, killed in the Battle of Atlanta; Maj. Gen. Joseph K.F. Mansfield, Antietam; Maj. Gen. John F. Reynolds, Gettysburg; Maj, Gen. John Sedgwick, Spotsylvania; and fourteen division commanders were killed or mortally wounded, including Maj. Gen. Phillip Kearny at Chantilly.

The most prominent Confederate death was Lt. Gen. Thomas J. Jackson, mortally wounded at Chancellorsville. Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston in command at Shiloh was killed during the battle. Others were Lt. Gen. Leonidas Polk at Pine Mountain, A.P. Hill at Petersburg; J.E.B. Stuart at Yellow Tavern, and Maj. Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne at Franklin, Tenn.

When did the Civil War officially end?

On Monday, April 2, 1866, the following proclamation was published.

“Now, therefore, I, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, do hereby proclaim and declare that the insurrection which heretofore existed in the States of Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Florida is at an end and is henceforth to be so regarded.” Texas only was omitted, its government not yet formed. The Texas proclamation was issued August 20th.

Plan Your Travels—Upcoming Civil War Events

May 17-19

Near Winchester, VA. **The North-South Skirmish Association 139th Annual Competition.** Over 3,000 competitors compete in live fire black powder firearms, muskets, revolvers, carbines, mortars, and cannons.

June 29-30

Pennsylvania Civil War Show at the Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center, Gettysburg. The Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association's Artifact and Collector's Show. Over 200 vendors and over 300 tables

April 12-13

Friends of Gettysburg Spring Muster. Visit the gettysburgfoundation.org website for details



Time is running out on registering for the Al Smith's Annual Civil War "5 Days in May Trip" This excellent field trip to Washington D.C. is scheduled for May 15 -19, 2019. Sites that are scheduled on this tour are the National Archives, the Pentagon, the Soldier's and Airmen's Home National Cemetery (Lincoln's summer home), the Newseum , and much more. The tour guide will be Kate Ramirez Taylor. For details, contact Al Smith at ohjudyoh@yahoo.com

Match the Regiments with their Nickname

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. 15th Wisconsin | a. Scandinavian Rgt |
| 2. 2nd Massachusetts | b. Abbot Grays |
| 3. 39th New York | c. Black Horse Cav |
| 4. 79th New York | d.1st US Hussars |
| 5. 6th PA Cavalry | e. Highlanders |
| 6. 3rd New Jersey Cav | f. Rutledge's Cavalry |
| 7. 13th PA Reserves | g. Bucktails |
| 8. 7th Louisiana | h. Garibaldi Guard |
| 9. 4th Virginia Cav | i. Rush's Lancers |
| 10. 4th So Carolina Cav | j. Pelicans |

1-a,2-b,3-h,5-l, 6-d,7-g, 8-j, 9-c,10-f

2018-2019 MEMBERSHIP FORM- DUES, NEW AND/OR RENEWAL

Name(s): _____

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

Address: _____

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Mail Check to: Martin Flinn, Treas.

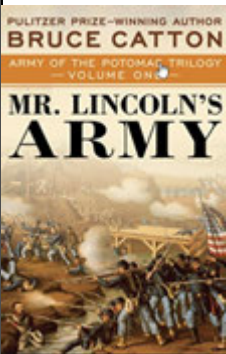
New Bedford Civil War Round Table, 39 Little Oak Road, New Bedford, MA 02745

Bruce Catton – Eminent Historian of the Civil War, by Peter Rioux

When Civil War historians are often asked to express their view regarding the Civil War historical writer who has had the greatest influence in restoring America's deep interest in this nation's most divisive and tragic experience, one name is most consistently listed – Bruce Catton. No other Civil War historian has been able to achieve both an abiding respect among fellow scholars and historians for his painstakingly detailed historical research and for so extensively popularizing the enjoyment among Americans through the reading of his eloquent and vivid descriptions – the sights, sounds and the emotions of conflict. Seldom do historical writers achieve such a level of notoriety. Bruce Catton was able to reach this pinnacle and sustain it for the past seven decades through the publication of his first “Army of the Potomac” trilogy (1951-1953) and his subsequent “Centennial” trilogy (1961-1965).

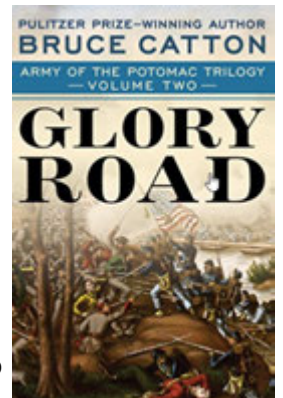


Bruce Catton was born in 1899 in the town of Petoskey, Michigan, and then raised as a youth in Benzonia, Michigan. As he chronicles in his moving autobiography, Waiting for the Morning Train, the spark for his initial interest in the Civil War was ignited as he captivantly listened to the poignant and vivid recollections of aging Union veterans of the War. As he later wrote of these early recollections, “These stories gave a color and a tone not merely to our village life, but to the concept of life with which we grew up. They made the Civil War a living thing for me.” In his book, he poignantly recalls Declaration Day when he would march closely along with these Union veterans to the town cemetery to lay lilacs upon the graves of their fellow comrades.

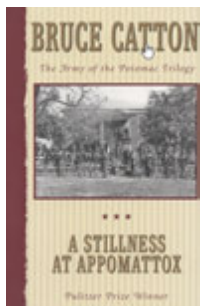


He briefly attended Oberlin College in 1916 but left to serve in the Navy during the First World War. Subsequent to the war's end, he pursued an extensive journalistic career for over twenty years serving as a reporter, editor, correspondent and editorial writer. During the Second World War, he served as Director of Information for the War Production Board, which was the link between the government and private industry to help finance the nation's war effort, and later the Department of Commerce and Interior.

In the early 1940's, his early formed interest in the history of the Civil War re-emerged, motivating him to want to write an epic account of the war that would be grounded by extensive research, but described in such a way that the vividness of the narrative would establish an emotional and living connection providing the reader with a sense of the war's tragedy, but without an appeal to sentimentality or romance. Although he had no experience as a historian, he undertook this effort as he said, “When I was ready, when I knew I could write it as I saw it.”



After completing his extensive research, he completed his first trilogy, consisting of three volumes (Mr. Lincoln's Army, Glory Road, A Stillness at Appomattox) which were published between 1951-1953. These books were enthusiastically greeted by American readers, achieving extensive sales' success, prompting voluminous fan mail to Catton, and establishing a much anticipated eagerness from readers for subsequent volumes.



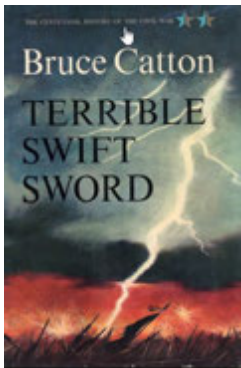
Other historians had written factual accounts of this nation's great tragedy, but Catton was able to achieve unprecedented popularity due to his unique ability to uncover a wide variety of primary source material (diaries, soldiers' letters, reports, spousal letters) and then apply this material, presenting it in a writing style that enabled the reader to experience the war. He was able to provide the reader with a “true” story providing them with a visceral and rich sense of the atmosphere of battle – the feel of impending confrontation and the actual terror of battles. In writing this trilogy, he enabled the reader to view the war from the perspective of the Northern soldiers, like the veterans he knew as a young boy in Benzonia, Michigan. This enabled the reader to feel “a soldier's heart throb.” As Catton described this experience for himself, it was as if, “I was there myself.”

To illustrate his ability to describe battle in the form of first hand realism, here is his brief account of the raging Battle of the Wilderness as included in his Pulitzer Prize winning book, A Stillness at Appomattox:

“The whole wilderness seemed to be boiling and smoking, with dense clouds going up to blot out the sunlight. From the rear, Warren pushed the rest of his corps into the fight, and there is no coherent story to be told about any of it; it was all violent confusion with occasional revealing glimpses to be had in the infernal clogged mist.”

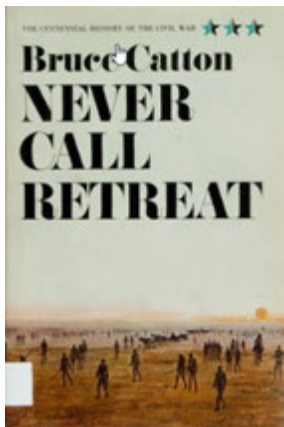
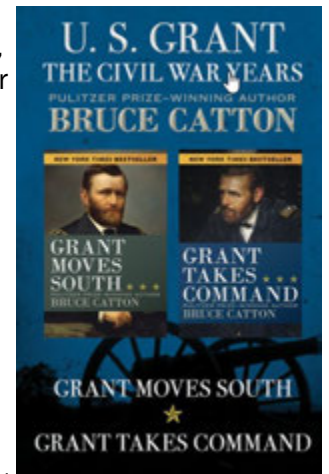
As the following excerpt from the conclusion of Glory Road illustrates, he could also write with a language that employed eloquence, beauty and a somber poignancy as he describes the Gettysburg dedication ceremony in November 1863;

“In front of them was a wide gentle valley of the shadow of death, brimming with autumn sunlight, and behind them the flags waved lazily about the speakers' stand and a voice droned on building toward a literary climax. This was the valley of bones. The bones had lain there in the sun and the rain, and now they were carefully arranged state by state under the new sod. Back of these men were innumerable long dusty roads reaching to the main streets of a thousand youthful towns and villages where there had been bright flags overhead and people on the board sidewalks cheering and crying and waving a last good-by. Perhaps here on this wind-swept hill the thing could be said at last, so that the dry bones of the country's dreams could take on flesh. The orator finished, and after the applause had died away the tall man in the black frock coat got to his feet, and with two little sheets of paper in his hand, he looked out over the valley and began to speak.”



During the middle to late 1950's, Catton served as the editor of the American Heritage magazine and then compiled its Civil War Centennial book, which is still regarded as the best Civil War pictorial book ever published. In approaching the nation's war Centennial, he prepared for his second war trilogy (The Coming Fury, Terrible Swift Sword, Never Call Retreat) compiling with his researcher, E.B. Long, over thirty-five hundred sources, nine million words, and twenty-four

thousand pages of material. On this nation's historical occasion, he wanted his second trilogy to support it by contributing his effort to achieve, “ a grand national experience in the spirit of reconciliation.” This trilogy series was also enthusiastically greeted by American readers. He later wrote a final trilogy devoted to the military experiences of Ulysses S. Grant.



Bruce Catton was deservedly honored by his nation. In 1977, President Ford presented him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Biennially, American Heritage awards the Bruce Catton Prize for lifetime achievement in the writing of history. His historical work was extensively used by Ken Burns in the preparation of his award-winning television documentary The Civil War.

In 1978, Bruce Catton died at the age of 79. Fittingly, he is buried in his home town of Benzonia, Michigan, among the lilacs and the Union veterans whose lives and stories first inspired him.

As Oliver Jensen, his succeeding editor of American Heritage, had written:

“No one ever wrote history with more grace, beauty and emotional power or greater understanding of its meaning than Bruce Catton.”

...Peter Rioux, New Bedford Civil War Round Table, February 2019

