

THE FLAGBEARER

Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table

Tuesday, January 23rd, 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

Happy New Year. We are excited to bring you an interesting rundown of speakers for 2018, some of them are old friends , and some are new.

We had a wonderful Holiday Party at Me and Ed's Restaurant. It was very well attended. I hope you took home a book from the raffle.

Most all of you have paid your 2017-2018 membership dues. We thank you for your support. Without you we would not have a Civil War Round Table. We now have 50 registered members. That's a first. We are growing , and I hope you will support our effort to continue this growth by encouraging your friends to join us for a meeting. Don't forget, we have a website with links to our monthly Flagbearer. Ask those that might be interested in more information to visit us at the website.

New email address? Please let me know of your change.

Also, if you have suggestions as to Flagbearer subject material , email me at :

bobbylee76@comcast.net

....Bob Lytle 508-542-7630

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Our January Speaker

NAVAL HISTORIAN CHUCK VEIT RETURNS

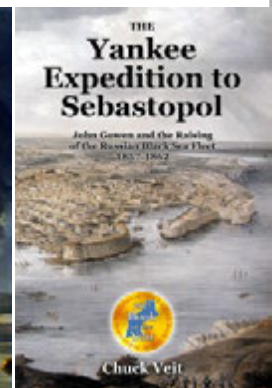
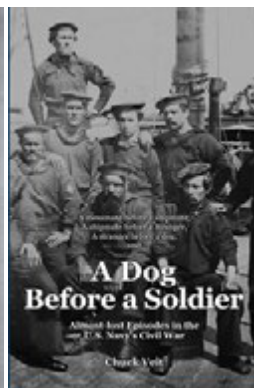
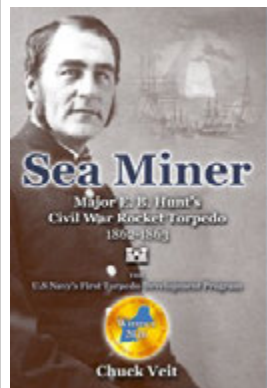
Chuck Veit , is the president of the Navy and Marine Living History Association and lieutenant of the Naval Landing Party living history group. Chuck is the author of a growing number of original research books, and I have included pictures of them below. He is a frequent speaker on 19th century naval topics at many of this region's historical societies and Civil War Round Tables, as well as the Naval War College at Newport.

I encourage you to visit Chuck's website, ChuckVeitBooks.com.

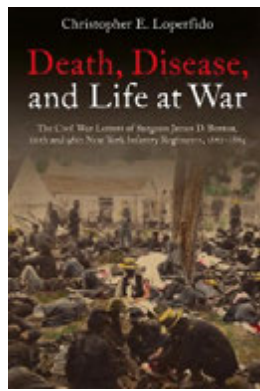
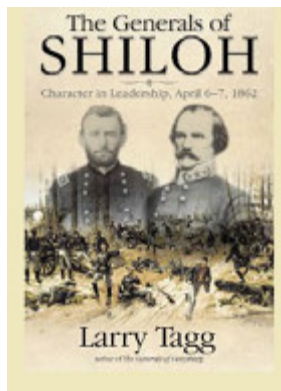
His topic for January is the USS Alligator. Although CSS Hunley garners almost all the modern media attention, she was actually one of the more than twenty submarines built during the War of the Rebellion—and far from most advanced. That laurel belongs to the first submarine of the war, - and the first in the U.S. Navy—Alligator. Chuck's lecture will detail the background of the inventor, the boat's design and systems, and the various missions she undertook.

For those considering the Annual 2018 “5 Days in May “ tour, led by Al and Dave Smith, Chuck Veit will be our trip guide, on the bus with us.

Again, our meeting is Tuesday night, January 23rd, at 7:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you at the first 2018 meeting.



NEWLY RELEASED BOOKS TO FOR YOU TO CONSIDER



...From the "CIVIL WAR NEWS", credit to column written monthly by Matthew Borowick

Can sharing information and ideas among Civil War Round Tables make them better, stronger, and more successful? That was the topic of the first Civil War Round Table Congress, held in September 2017, in Centerville, Va, just a few miles from the site of the Civil War's first major battle.

The organizers of the Congress wondered "Would Round Table leaders show up and pay a modest fee to learn new ideas?" The answer was "Yes", as over 100 leaders gathered for a day long discussion about best practices. They traveled from as far as Canada and California. They all shared one thing in common: an awareness that Round Tables are at a critical time in their existence. The interest emanating from the War's sesquicentennial celebrations has abated. The esteem held for many Civil War and Antebellum leaders is being questioned. There are concerns about whether younger generations have any interest in knowing and promoting the study of America's war against itself.

Without this Congress, a central organization to guide Round Tables, each is left to its own devices to not only thrive, but to survive. Issues discussed included media relations, fundraising, leadership, governance, effective communications, Round Table programs, attracting new members, gaining greater community awareness, and online presence.

The next Congress is being planned for August 2018 in Harrisburg, Pa. For more information, contact Mike Movius at movius@me.com. Matthew Borowick can be contacted at mbwick@comcast.net

Editor's note: The New Bedford Civil War Round Table has grown to 50 loyal members, with great meeting attendance. Proud of you all, and thanks for your support. Let's keep it going in 2018. Bring a guest.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

February 26, 2018

Mark Mello



Round Table member Mark Mello is in charge of February's meeting. He may speak himself or bring in an interesting guest speaker. We'll leave it up to him, and I know, as always, he won't disappoint.

March 27, 2018

Sharon Brooke Smith



If you haven't seen Sharon on Facebook, CSPAN, or YouTube, you'll find her here at our Round Table in March. 2 million horses and mules died during the Civil War, many times the human casualties.

Stonewall Jackson's Little Sorrel did survive the war, in fact outlived his master by 23 years. You'll learn more about this interesting horse in March.

Civil War a War Of "Firsts"

First time conscription was used to fill the ranks

The Secret Service was born

Income taxes were levied, as were tobacco taxes

First use of the Medal of Honor

Railroads expanded—used to rapidly move troops

For time a President was assassinated

War reconnaissance from the air—gas filled balloons

Trumpet call—"Taps"

Corps patches were used for identification

Machine gun invented, and land mines

Battlefield photography came into use

First time soldiers in the field voted

Wire telegraph used strategically / communications

First widespread use of anesthetics

Medicine forced out of the middle ages

Rifled muskets and repeater carbines

Revolving gun turret and rifled artillery

The Annual Five Days in May Trip is Announced for 2018 by Al and Dave Smith , The Greater Boston Civil War Round Table

Plans are complete for another great Civil War field trip. The trip is scheduled for May 16, 2018 through May 20, 2018. The trip will cover sites involved in the battles between the Confederate and Union navies. First up will be Fortress Monroe and Casement Museum in Newport News, Virginia, and the Nauticus National Maritime Center in Norfolk. Both museums focus on the ironclad battles.



Continuing the trip, there will be a visit to the USS Monitor Center to view the remnants of that famous submarine and then on to City Point (Grant's Headquarters and Supply Base), and we will learn about the USS Alligator. We will also visit Drewry's Bluff, the site of the four year confrontation between Confederate marines and the Union Navy. We will also visit other naval battles along the

James River. As an added feature of our trip, the hotel accommodations for Thursday and Friday will take us to Williamsburg and all that area has to offer. As a bonus to our weekend our ride home will take us to Gettysburg Battlefield for several hours of touring..



Chuck Veit

So if you are looking for a cram packed fun weekend, come join us. The trip includes 4 nights in hotels located in Salisbury, Maryland, Williamsburg, Virginia, and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The air conditioned bus is supplied by McGinn Bus Co. Your trip price includes the 4 hotel nights, the bus fare, 3 dinners at restaurants located in Williamsburg and Gettysburg, all admissions, donations for Civil War preservation, driver tip, and tour guide. Our tour guide will be naval expert Chuck Veit, longtime friend of our Round Table.

A \$50.00 deposit will hold a reservation for this fantastic trip. Send your check payable to Civil War Round Table c/o Al Smith 11 Poplar St, Belmont, MA 02478. The total cost of the trip is \$770.00 for a single person and \$580.00 each for a double room. If you have any questions contact Al Smith at 617-484-5613 or email Al Smith ohjudyoh@yahoo.com.



Dave Smith-James Getty-Al Smith



Gettysburg



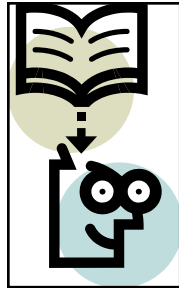
Fort Monroe

**COME JOIN UP !!!
THE ANNUAL 5 DAYS IN MAY TRIP**

**2018 BOOK AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE
BOOK AWARD COMMITTEE**



The New Bedford Civil War Round Table will once again be providing a \$500.00 Book Award to a deserving high school senior. The eligible schools are GNB Regional Voke, New Bedford High School, Apponequet High School, Old Colony Regional Voke, Dartmouth High School, Fairhaven High School, Bishop Stang, and Old Rochester Regional High School. The applications are to be submitted to the New Bedford Civil War Round Table by Friday, March 30, 2018, to be considered.



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: _____

WELCOME!!

Notable Abraham Lincoln Quotes

...Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.

...Be sure you put your foot in the right place, then stand firm.

...I am a slow walker , but I never walk back.

...Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.

...No man has a good enough memory to be a successful liar.

...You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.

...If this is coffee, please bring me some tea; but if this tea, please bring me some coffee.

...My concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right.

...I'm a success today because I had a friend who believed in me and I didn't want to let him down.

...Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally.

...There are no bad pictures; that's just how your face looks sometimes.

...Those who look for the bad in people will surely find it.

...When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on.

...I would rather be a little nobody, then to be a evil somebody.

...The best way to predict your future is to create it.

...I don't like that man. I must get to know him better.

...Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any one thing.

...I laugh because I must not cry, that is all, that is all.

2017-2018 Executive Board

Joe Langlois—President

Bruce Baggarly—V President

Secretary—Open

Martin Flinn—Treasurer

Bobby Watkins—Board of Directors

Bob Macfarlane—Board of Directors Emeritus

Peter Rioux—Board of Directors

Mark Mello—Board of Directors

Bob Randall—Librarian

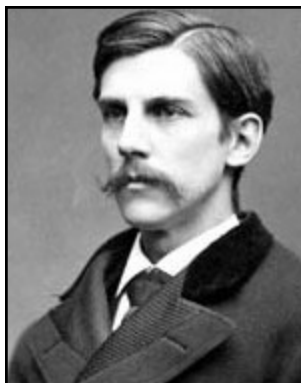
Larry Roy—Board of Directors

Bob Lytle—Flagbearer

Cell # 508-542-7630

Justice Holmes at War, By Peter Rioux

Many are familiar with the legal reputation of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., born in Boston in 1841, son of a prominent writer, poet and physician (Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.) and Associate Justice of both the Massachusetts Supreme Court and United States Supreme Court. However, few are aware of Justice Holmes' dramatic and life threatening military experience having served in the Union Army from April 1861 to July 1864, an experience he chronicled in his letters to his parents and his own personal diary.



Upon his graduation from Harvard College, he enlisted in the war effort after the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter in April 1861 and was assigned as a lieutenant to the 20th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment. This regiment was commonly referred to as “Harvard's Army” due to the large number of this college's graduates who had been recruited and assigned.



In October 1862, during the Ball's Bluff Battle in which the Union attack upon a cliff was repelled, Holmes was severely wounded, being shot in the chest and stomach. This was a battle in which approximately one half of his company and over 60% of the Union officers were either killed or wounded. Despite the intense pain and his acceptance of likely death, Holmes refused to take a pain medication that his father had provided to him. He recovered writing that “Death plucks my ear but says live.”



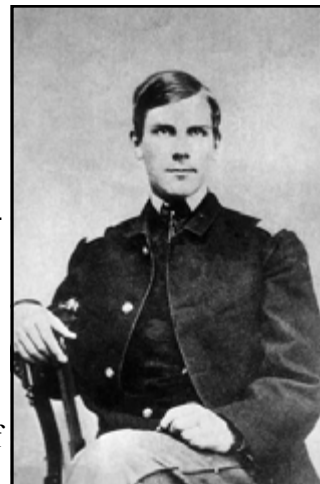
Upon his recovery in March of 1862, he rejoined his regiment and participated in the battle at Antietam in September 1862. This was a battle in which only four Union regiments suffered greater casualties. Holmes was again wounded after being shot through the back of his neck. In his letter to his parents in September

1862, Holmes included a description of his wound as well as a side self profile identifying the path of the bullet through his neck (see attached drawing). He wrote to his parents, “Usual luck – ball entered at the rear passing straight through the central seam of my coat and waistcoat collar coming out toward the front on the left- hand side – yet I don't seem to have smashed my spine or I suppose I should be dead or paralyzed or something).

Upon receiving this letter from his son, Holmes, Sr. traveled to Maryland and Pennsylvania anxiously searching multiple hospitals, holding a lantern over each bed that he visited seeking his wounded son. He ultimately found Holmes, Jr. on a train in Harrisburg returning home for recuperation. Holmes, Sr. chronicled his search in a widely read article for the Atlantic Monthly Magazine entitled “My Hunt after the Captain”. Holmes, Sr. concluded his article by memorably describing his son's return to his Boston home with his parents:

“We lay him in his own bed, and let him sleep off his aches and weariness. So comes down another night over this household, unbroken by any messenger of evil tidings – a night of peaceful rest and grateful thoughts; for this our son and brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is now found.”

Despite holding serious misgivings regarding the ultimate success of the Union's war effort, [Holmes, Jr. returned for a third time to his regiment in November 1862. However, at the Battle of Fredericksburg, he was again wounded being shot in the foot. He recovered from this wound, later serving in the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Battles in May 1864. In July of that year, his three year enlistment period expired, and he decided to resign. He wrote to his parents:

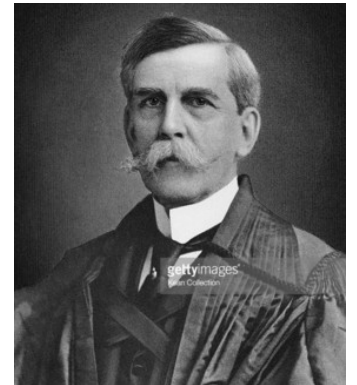


“I honestly think the duty of fighting has ceased for me – ceased because I have laboriously and with much suffering of mind and body earned the right to decide for myself how I can best do my duty to myself, to the Country, and to God.”

After the war, Holmes completed law school, established a law practice in Boston, edited the American Law Review, taught law at Harvard, received an

appointment to the Massachusetts Supreme Court, and subsequently to the United States Supreme Court after his nomination by President Theodore Roosevelt.

In May 1884, while serving on the Massachusetts Supreme Court, he delivered what is regarded as the most memorable and frequently quoted Memorial Day speech in American history at Keene, New Hampshire before the local chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic. Even though he refused to read further painful descriptions of the war, he poignantly expressed his feeling that “In our youth, our hearts were touched with fire. We can now best honor those who sacrificed their lives by living a meaningful life of our own – to recall what our country has done for each one of us, to ask ourselves what we can do for the country in return.” JFK's Inaugural Address would resonate this same refrain 75 years later.



The life of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. spanned 94 years of American history, originating 65 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence and ending 65 years prior to America's entry into the 21st Century.

During his pivotal lifetime, he was able as a young man to shake the hand of the nation's aging 6th President, John Quincy Adams, and as an older man, the hand of John F. Kennedy, who would later become the nation's 35th President.

Justice Holmes died in 1935 at the age of 93. After his death, his personal effects were found to include his officer's uniform stained with his blood and torn by bullets that wounded him three times. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery under a tree located only a short distance from the gravesite of President Kennedy. His gravestone lists his honorable and courageous service during the Civil War before that of his service on the United States Supreme Court.

His storied career as a preeminent jurist served to honor the nation and the memory of those whose sacrifice helped to preserve it.

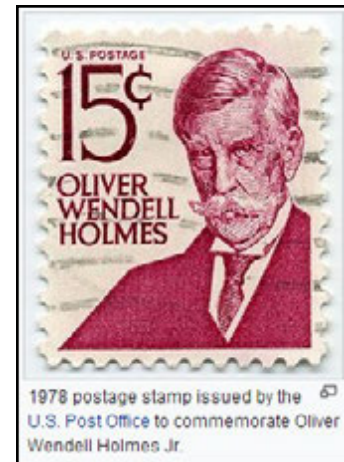
Sources:

Touched by Fire Civil War Letters and Diary, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. and the Civil War, discussion with James McPherson, J. Edward White, YouTube

Andrew Powencher, lecture, YouTube

Peter Rioux, New Bedford Civil War Round Table Member
January 2018



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Oliver Wendell Holmes". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.