

THE FLAGBEARER

Greater New Bedford Ma Civil War Round Table

Tuesday January 29, 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

Please note the date of our meeting, January 29. Previous communications have said January 22 , but we have changed January's meeting date to January 29, 2019.

It seems like ages ago that we last published something to you. We had our Holiday dinner at Me and Ed's in December, and because of that we did not publish a full Flagbearer.

So, here we are, ready for a new year of activities. I have included, one more time, a dues application for the program year 2018-2019, even though we are now almost halfway through our year. If you haven't paid your dues for the year , please consider doing it now. We don't want you to lose your membership in the Round Table , nor do we want to drop you from the Flagbearer mailing. You are our lifeblood. We are grateful for your membership support. And we wish to continue serving you through 2019.

Meet our Jan 29 speaker

David Prentiss "The Civil War and the American Idea of Democracy

David is a long time member of the New Bedford Civil War Round Table and is on our speaker schedule every year. His presentations usually focus on Abraham Lincoln . He is an excellent presenter and we look forward to his inciteful comments each year.

David is President of the New Bedford Symphony, a position he has held since 2008. He is an Adjunct Professor, Political Science, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. His bio includes courses in Urban Politics, Civil Liberties, Political Theory, and Constitutional Law.

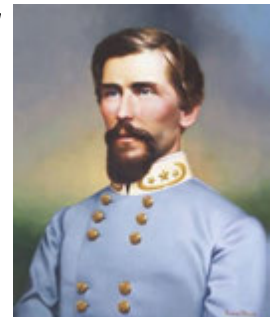
He holds his J.D Law degree from New England Law, Boston, a B.A. in Philosophy from Assumption College, and his Master's Degree from Boston College. We welcome David Prentiss to our Round Table's January meeting.



DAVID PRENTISS

Once again Round Table member Peter Rioux has favored us with an interesting article, this time on the South's "Stonewall of the West" , General Patrick Cleburne.

As of this writing, we have 47 paid members. We are waiting for 10 of you, that are long time members , to renew for 2019. Please check your records to be sure you are current. If in doubt, call or email me.



Gen'l Patrick Cleburne

Please be sure that you have sent me your email address. I will be sending announcements of meetings electronically. If you do not have an email address and are a member, don't worry, we will mail you announcements. Bob Lytle

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WHAT'S YOUR CONNECTION TO THE CIVIL WAR?

Last fall I asked you to submit the name or names of your ancestors that fought in the Civil War. The response has been interesting. If you did not make a submission, please do so and I will feature it here in the Flagbearer. Our readers will find it interesting.

From Round Table member Oren Cook.

“ My grandfather's brother, Charles H, Cook, was a member of the 49th Mass Vol Infantry, from the Berkshires. He fought in the battle of Port Hudson, was shot in the chest with grapeshot, May 27, 1863, was evacuated to Baton Rouge, a field hospital, where he died July 2, 1863. The Federal assault was poorly led. And not a single Union soldier reached their objective. It was , in the words of many, a slaughter of the men of the 49th.”

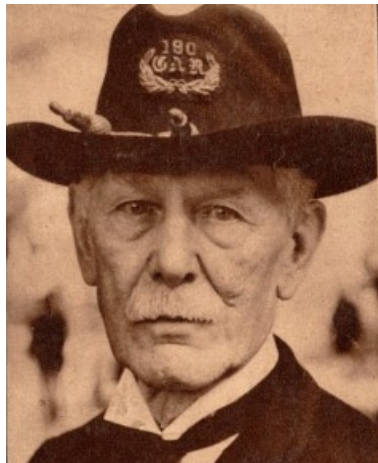
From Round Table member Bob Randall

Shown below is Round Table member Bob Randall (front row middle) with his Great Grandfather, George H. Randall, of Rochester, MA. See page 5 of this Flagbearer for his story.



George H. Randall appearing in his G.A.R. hat.

...from Digital Commonwealth



Spring 2019 Speaker Lineup

Feb 26, 2019

Tom Nester, Ph.D.

Bridgewater State University

Associate Professor, History Department

U.S. Army's involvement in suppressing racial violence and terror during reconstruction.

Mar 26, 2019

Mark Mello , Park Ranger

James Henry Gooding: The 54th's Unsung Hero



April 23, 2019

Chuck Veit returns

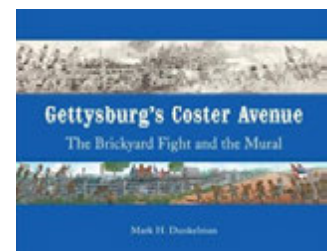
This time Chuck will cover how the Union Navy prevented World War 1. What's that you say? The Union Navy's successful blockade of the Southern States and rapid build up of war ships gave pause to the Colonial powers of Europe in their contemplation of recognizing the South as a country.



May 28, 2019

Mark Dunkelman

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



Patrick Cleburne: The Confederate General Who Proposed Emancipation, by Peter Rioux

Shelby Foote, author of the epic narrative history of the Civil War, once said that of all the generals and leaders during the war, Confederate General Patrick Cleburne had made the most memorable and heroic impression upon him.

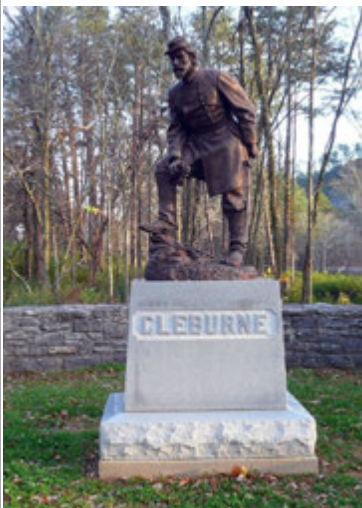
The son of a doctor, Patrick Cleburne was born on St. Patrick's Day in March of 1828 in County Cork, England, and raised in a family suffering through the misery and deprivation of the Irish Famine. At the age of eighteen, he joined the Welsh Forty-first Regiment of the British Army. In 1849, he emigrated with his brother and two sisters to Helena, Arkansas, becoming the owner and manager of a drugstore. He subsequently sold the drugstore six years later. Through his own self study, he pursued a law degree, enabling him to become a licensed circuit lawyer at the age of twenty-seven. In 1856, during a violent street skirmish in Helena with radical members of the Know Nothing Party, he was shot in the back but was able to return fire killing one of his assailants. He soon recovered from his wounds after ten days and presented a self defense for which he was soon exonerated.

During the late 1850's and 1860, the country reflected the growing prospect of a violent civil confrontation over the issue of slavery and secession. Cleburne, having absorbed the Southern values of his adopted country, although not the institution of slavery, resisted the prospect of Union control over the South and joined a local "Yell" militia serving as a captain. This militia then became part of the Confederacy's Arkansas Fifteenth Regiment with Cleburne serving as a colonel.

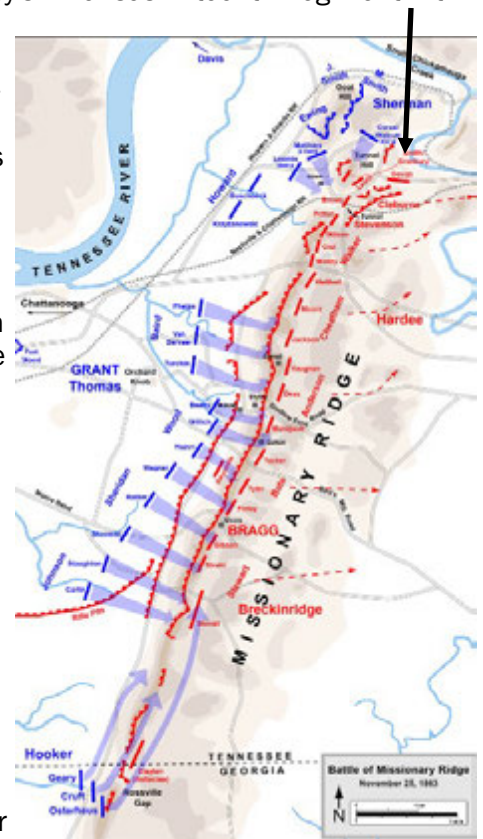
During the early portion of the Civil War, Cleburne participated in the Battle of Stones River, where he led an advance which routed the Union's right flank. After being wounded in the face at Richmond, he then gained success at Perryville and Chickamauga. As a result, he received significant notoriety earning him a promotion as Major General, which enabled him to achieve the highest ranking of any foreign born officer.

In 1863, he was able to demonstrate his superb defensive skills at the Battle of Ringgold Gap, Georgia, in which he successfully held a larger Union advance, receiving the commendation of the Confederate Congress, and the

Confederate retreat at Missionary Ridge, where he successfully held back Union General Joseph Hooker, enabling Braxton Bragg's Confederate troops to safely retreat. His continuing success was largely attributed to his ability to use the available terrain, extensively train his troops in the application of fast, well-aimed fire, and to successfully hold and retain ground. As a result, he was acclaimed as the "Stonewall of the West." Lee felt that Cleburne was like a "meteor shining from a clouded sky."



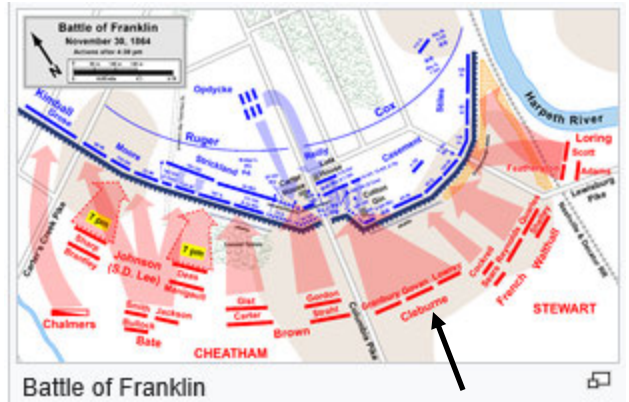
In January 1864, Cleburne saw that the war was shaping to the serious disadvantage of the Confederacy. Recognizing the Confederacy's desperately growing military situation, Cleburne proposed an extensive fifty page recommendation submitted to the General Officers of the Confederate Army of Tennessee for the emancipation of held Southern slaves and their families citing its military manpower necessity. In his proposal, he justified his recommendation by stating that the Confederacy did not have enough manpower to effectively compete without the use of slaves; new strength would be provided to offset an expanding Union Army; that the slaves would be willing to endure the military risk to achieve their freedom; Britain and France would provide support for the Confederate cause as a result of an emancipation decision; it would remove the taint of the retention of slavery as the primary Confederate cause helping to neutralize the Union's cause for the war; and that the sacrifice of relinquishing slaves would better enable the Confederacy to defend its other important values, such as land, liberty, safety, pride, and independence.



Although some brigade and regimental commanders approved of Cleburne's proposal, most commanding Confederate Generals did not view Cleburne's proposal favorably, some indicating that it was "monstrous" and that white soldiers would resist and refuse to fight further. Jefferson Davis subsequently ordered that Cleburne's emancipation proposal be suppressed and never mentioned again. As a result, Cleburne was viewed with suspicion and never promoted again, remaining a division commander until his death. Cleburne's proposal was not revealed until thirty years after the end of the war.

In November 1864, Union troops were trying to advance at Franklin, Tennessee, in order to reach Nashville and reinforce Union General Thomas. Confederate troops were attempting to stop this Union advance. In this attempt, Cleburne led an assault on Union troops through an open field beckoning to his troops, "If we are to die, let us die like men." After having two different horses shot from under him, he was subsequently killed having been shot below his heart as he directly charged Union lines on foot waving his cap.

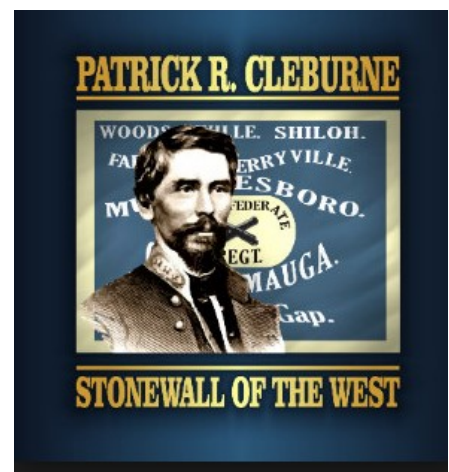
The Confederacy lost six thousand men and six generals at the Battle of Franklin, including the honorable and valiant death of Patrick Cleburne, at the age of thirty-six. Upon learning of Cleburne's death, Confederate Corps Commander William Hardee said, "When this division defended, no odds broke its line, where it attacked, no numbers resisted its onslaught, save only once, and there is the grave of Cleburne."



Patrick Cleburne was originally buried in Columbia, Tennessee. However, six years later, his former law partners subsequently brought him home to be buried in his beloved hometown of Helena, Arkansas. His funeral service included a quarter mile procession and was attended by Jefferson Davis. His name and reputation lives on – Cleburne County, Alabama; Cleburne, Texas; the Patrick R. Cleburne Memorial Cemetery in Jonesboro, Georgia; and now Cleburne Park, Tennessee, in Franklin, where he gave his life.

Many Civil War military analysts regard Cleburne as the most capable, yet unsung Confederate General of the war.

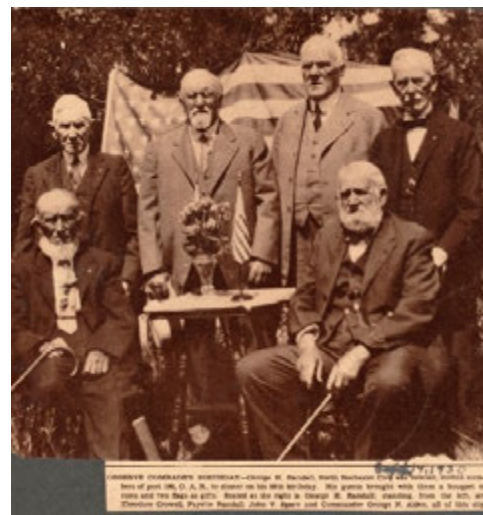
Peter Rioux



SOURCES:

- Wikipedia: Cleburne
- Shelby Foote, The Civil War: A Narrative
- James McPherson, Battle Cry of Freedom
- Bruce Catton, Never Call Retreat
- Terrible Swift Sword
- Craig Seymonds, Lecture
- Michael Thomas, Lecture

Round Table member Bob Randall's Great Grandfather George Henry Randall



While George Randall's story as a resident of Rochester, MA is full and rich with local history, we'll focus on his Civil War service. George enlisted for war service at the age of 20, on August 22, 1862. He registered as a private in the 38th Massachusetts Volunteers, but, when he arrived in Lynnfield, he joined the 3rd Mass Calvary, Company E.

After two years of service he was promoted to Corporal. He saw active service in 15 battles, 13 of which were in Louisiana, and 2 in Virginia, most notably Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek. Despite seeing action in all these engagements, he managed to escape without a battle scar.

George died in December 1939, the oldest Civil War survivor in the region at age 97. He was a proud member of G.A.R. R.A. Pierce Post 190, New Bedford, and the United American Veterans.

The story of Round Table member Bruce Baggaly's two Civil War ancestors, - William "Big Bill" Anthony and Samuel Baggaly, both of Company "H" Georgia 32nd Infantry Regiment. These are Bruce's Great Grandparents, one on each side of the family. They enlisted together.

Company "H" mustered in from Monroe County and assembled at Savannah, Georgia in 1862. According to historians, the 32nd had some of the most well trained troopers in the state of Georgia. The 32nd had trained engineers, artillerists, and infantrymen. Bruce believes his ancestors were teamsters. The 32nd was sent to Charleston to build defenses for the siege to come later. They fortified Battery Wagner, later to become famous for the battle site of the famed 54th Mass. From here the 32nd was dispatched to Florida and was later involved in the Battle of Olustee, the only major land battle in Florida. They were sent back to Charleston, and participated in the defense of Savannah against Sherman March the Sea. It is here that we have an entry of one of Bruce's Great Grandfathers on his mother's side—from the official Georgia records.



Anthony, William M. - Enlisted as a private in Co. A, 6th Regiment Ga. State Troops October 17, 1861. Mustered out April 1862. - Enlisted as a private in Co. H, 32d Regiment Ga. Inf. May 6, 1862. Captured at Pocotaligo, S. C. January 15, 1865. " Deserted, gave himself up and sent to New York February 26, 1865."

From South Carolina, Company "H" and the 32nd marched to North Carolina, along with other Department of Georgia troops, South Carolina troops, and some remaining troops from the Army of Tennessee under the command of General Joseph E. Johnston. On April 26, 1865, General Johnston surrendered to General William T. Sherman. And here is where Samuel Baggaly's story ends, at the surrender, at Bennett Place Farm, Durham Station, North Carolina.

I happened to be present at the reenactment of the surrender, so here is a photo or two of the event...Bob Lytle



From Round Table member Herb Howe.

Herb's Great, Great, Grandfather was Ora T. Howe of Jamaica Vermont. He enlisted as a Private on December 7, 1863 at age 23, for a 3 year enlistment. He mustered in at Woodstock Vermont. He was 5 ft 8In tall. He was received into Company G of the First Heavy Artillery, Vermont Volunteers, a.k.a. the 11th Vermont Infantry. The 11th was the largest Vermont regiment sent to war. It had been organized at Camp Bradley, Brattleboro on Sept 1, 1862. In Dec 1862 was redesignated as the First Heavy Artillery. It was assigned to the defenses of Washington D.C. , and assigned to various forts around Washington. The original members numbered 1,315, with transfers of 1,005, - a total of 2,320 men. Of these 152 were killed, 210 died of disease, 175 died in prison, and 2 by accident. Wounded were 457, and captured 339.

After the terrible losses at the Battle of the Wilderness, the 1st was ordered to reinforce the Army of the Potomac and was reported for duty as infantry near Spotsylvania Court House. It was assigned to the Vermont Brigade, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 6th Corps. Severe campaigning lay ahead. It was engaged at Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, Fort Stevens, Charlestown, Gilbert's Ford, Opequan, Fisher's Hill ,Cedar Creek, and finally Petersburg. It was at Cold Harbor, on June 12, 1864 that Ora T. Howe was killed. Cold Harbor was the one battle that General Grant, in his memoirs, indicates that he regretted ordering the final charge. It was fruitless. Ora is buried at Cold Harbor , but pictured below is his Cenotaph from the cemetery in Vermont.



it



Crossed cannon battle flag of the 1st Vermont



Cenotaph of Ora T. Howe

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