

# THE FLAGBEARER

## Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table

Tuesday, June 26, 2018, 6:00 pm

We will meet at the Low Tide Yacht Club next door to our usual meeting location at the Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum  
1000C Rodney French Blvd, New Bedford, MA

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

...The New Bedford Civil War Round Table

As usual we will take July and August off, and return with an excellent fall speaker line up. There was a change in the World War 1 Speaker Series program that we planned for the summer and fall. We cancelled the June speaker due to a lack of funding, however, the next speaker scheduled will be on July 12th, Peggi Medeiros. Her talk will center upon the New Bedford families that sent sons to France with the Yankee Division, or as volunteers.

We thank all of you that helped with the planning and execution of a very successful Memorial Day remembrance ceremony at Rural Cemetery.

Many of us were on the "5 Days in May" trip recently; - educational and great fun to be with like minded Civil War focused people. An umbrella was our best friend.

Many of you are seeing the Flagbearer for the first time, - a warm welcome !!!!

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- Larry Roy—Board of Directors
- Bob Lytle—Flagbearer

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## ANNUAL PICNIC AND BUSINESS MEETING TO ELECT OFFICERS FOR 2018-2019

PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER START TIME OF 6:00 P.M.



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### WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING ????

- PLEASE BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE WITH EVERYONE
- THIS WILL BE A CATERED EVENT, HOWEVER, WE WILL BE ASKING
- FOR A \$10.00 PP DONATION TO COVER THE COST OF THE
- CATERER
- GUESTS AND FAMILY ARE WELCOME
- WE WILL HOLD A BOOK RAFFLE
- THE 50-50 RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN
- PLEASE NOTE THE 6:00 PM START TIME

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WE ARE MEETING NEXT DOOR TO OUR USUAL MEETING ROOM, - THE LOW TIDE YACHT CLUB

.....MORE NEWS FROM THE ROUND TABLE

..... The New Bedford Civil War Round Table announces the addition of a June speaker to our busy summer schedule. You are invited to hear a presentation on "The Third System of American Coastal Defense", which includes the history of Fort Rodman. Frank R. Weaver of Indiana, one of our country's experts on the building of America's Coastal Defense System, will deliver his address on Tuesday June 12, at 6:00 pm. This lecture is free and open to the public. Over 42 forts were built between 1816 and 1867 so as to protect our young country from the world's great navies. Remember that Britain invaded us during the War of 1812 and burned Washington D.C. See you at the Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum on June 12.....Bob Lytle

SAVE THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR

October 23, 2018

\*\*\*\*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 Historical Park, NPS downtown New Bedford., in the main auditorium. 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 or Not Guilty???



KATE RAMIREZ is now KATE TAYLOR

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

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



Col. Kevin J Weddle, PhD

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.

November 13, 2018

Megan Kate Nelson returns.

She will feature her newest book, "Path of the Dead Man: How the West was Won,- and Lost- during the American Civil War." Megan was recently honored as a recipient of a 2017 NEH Public Scholar Award. This is her 3rd or 4th appearance here.



January 22, 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.



## Five Days in May Tour – 2018, by Peter Rioux

Our traveling group of Civil War enthusiasts just completed another enjoyable and informative tour, this time focusing upon the Peninsula Campaign of 1862, and concentrating upon some of the significant naval battles that influenced the direction of the Civil War. Our tour guide was noted naval historian and lecturer, Chuck Veit, who is the author of ten historical books including significant naval battles of the Civil War. His work has twice been honored by the Independent Publishers of New England as non-fiction book of the year. Chuck served as our guide from start to finish and provided us with dramatically detailed battle information and memorable anecdotes.

Here are some of the highlights of the sites we visited as part of our 2018 tour:

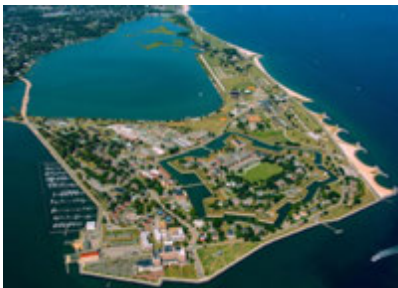
### The Mariner's Museum / USS Monitor Center

This museum is located in Newport News, Virginia. First constructed in 1930, the museum includes one of the finest collections of maritime art and exhibits (over 32,000 items). Some of these items include guns from the Ironclad CSS Virginia- Merrimack and 200 tons of conserved artifacts ( lanterns, clocks, etc.) from the USS Monitor and full size replicas of the Monitor's 25 ton gun turret and the Virginia's casemate. These two ironclads confronted each other on March 9, 1862, at Hampton Roads with the historic battle ending in a four hour stalemate. However, neither of these ironclads survived beyond late 1862. The Maritime Museum also includes a history of sea exploration (Magellan, Cook, Columbus, Byrd) and a ship model gallery featuring some incredible and precisely detailed craftsmanship.



### Fort Monroe

This Union fort named after President James Monroe is located on a 63 acre site at the very tip of the Virginia peninsula commanding the entrance where Hampton Roads meets Chesapeake Bay. It is the largest moat encircled masonry fortification in North America. Often referred to as the “Gibraltar of the Chesapeake,” it was originally constructed in 1819, and was the only Union fort located in the upper South region not to fall to the Confederacy. The fort was equipped with 412 cannons and served as the major base for Union fleet and infantry (6,000 soldiers) operations for McClellan's Peninsula Campaign. Union General Benjamin



Butler was headquartered at this fort starting in May 1861. While here, Butler declared initial fugitive slaves as contrabands, further encouraging additional slave laborers to seek protection and their freedom at a fort that became known as “Freedom Fortress.” The fort includes Flagstaff Bastion Overlook where we experienced panoramic views of Chesapeake Bay. In addition, the fort includes General Butler's and Lieutenant Robert E. Lee's headquarters while Lee was serving as a 24 year old engineer and the cell location of Confederate president Jefferson Davis, while imprisoned for two years at the conclusion of the war. The fort was deactivated in September 2011 and subsequently declared a national monument two months later.

### City Point

This site is located at the confluence of the James and Appomattox Rivers and served as General Grant's headquarters for nine and a half months starting in June 1864. From this location, Grant was able to coordinate Union military movements from behind the siege lines of Petersburg. The site provided the Union with access along the military front and vital transportation connections with Fort Monroe and Washington, D.C. The Point served as a supply base for Union armies and became one of the busiest ports in the world at its peak, with army and navy steamers, sail ships, and barges daily unloading transport troops and supplies along





its half mile long wharf. The site included 1,200 tents, 90 log barracks, and 7 operating hospitals and provided for strategic meetings for Grant with Lincoln, Sherman, and Admiral Porter.

### Point of Rocks

This rock rigged site is located along the Appomattox River, which the Confederacy has used as a sniper position to prevent Union ironclads from reaching the Swift Creek railroad bridge, which would have enabled the Union to prevent vital Confederate supplies from reaching Richmond, located up the river. The Union attempt to block the railroad bridge was not successful due to the limited depth of the river channel, treacherous river bars, and Confederate sniper attacks.

### Drewry's Bluff

This site, also referred to as Fort Darling, is located along the James River and was used by the Confederacy to prevent Union naval advances from reaching and shelling Richmond, located seven miles to the north. Confederate cannons were located along the river's upper bank and positioned approximately 90 feet above the river's edge and located at the sharp bend in the river, allowing for easier targeting of approaching Union ships. As a result, the union Monitor and five other vessels were driven off by Confederate cannon fire. Here we met a group of camped Confederate re-enactors who demonstrated the procedure for firing one of the cannons, which was located in its original May 1862 position. Drewry's Bluff was later used by the Confederacy as a permanent fort (chapel, barracks, officer's quarters, naval academy training ground) until the fall of Petersburg in April 1865.



### Malvern Hill

This site is located approximately one mile from the James River and eighteen miles SE of Richmond. The last of the Seven Days Battle occurred here on July 1, 1862, and represented the climax to the Peninsula Campaign. Union defenses led by McClellan (54,000) successfully repelled a Confederate counter-attack led by Lee (55,000), which was launched through an open field. However, despite success in this battle, the Union failed to reach Richmond. We viewed this battlefield in a driving rainstorm from the Union position directly facing the oncoming Confederate infantry. This magnificent battlefield has been fully restored to its 1862 appearance, and the National Park Service regards it as “the best preserved battlefield in Central and Southern Virginia.”

#### The Battle of Malvern Hill



Watercolor of the battle of Malvern Hill by Snodden

### Trent's Reach

This site, located along the James River, was the ironclad battle location where Union floating batteries were used to support land operations and protect City Point from Confederate attack descending down the river. This Confederate attack was successfully repelled by the Union squadron consisting of three ironclads. The Confederate ships suffered heavy damage and were forced to move back up the river.

Our Five Days in May Tour for 2019 will take us to Washington, D.C. to visit the major national historically significant attractions. Our tour guide will be Kate Taylor, who served as our guide in 2017 for our “Booth's Escape” tour. We eagerly look forward to seeing our fellow Civil War enthusiasts once again, after we hope will be a healthy and rewarding year for all.

# **FORT TABER~FORT RODMAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

1000C Rodney French Blvd., New Bedford, MA 02744

**\*\*\*ANNOUNCING SUMMER / FALL LECTURE SERIES ON WORLD WAR 1\*\*\***

**\*\*\*REVISION #1 MAY 10, 2018\*\*\***

The Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Historical Association will sponsor a lecture series featuring historical and educational commentaries on World War 1. Four speakers have been scheduled thus far.

2018 marks the 100 year Anniversary of the Armistice signed by the Allies and Germany on November 11, 1918.

Speakers scheduled to appear at the Museum are as follows:

**Thursday July 12, 2018**

***Peggi Medeiros, Local Historian***

***Lecture subject: New Bedford Families go to War in Europe***

**Thursday September 13, 2018**

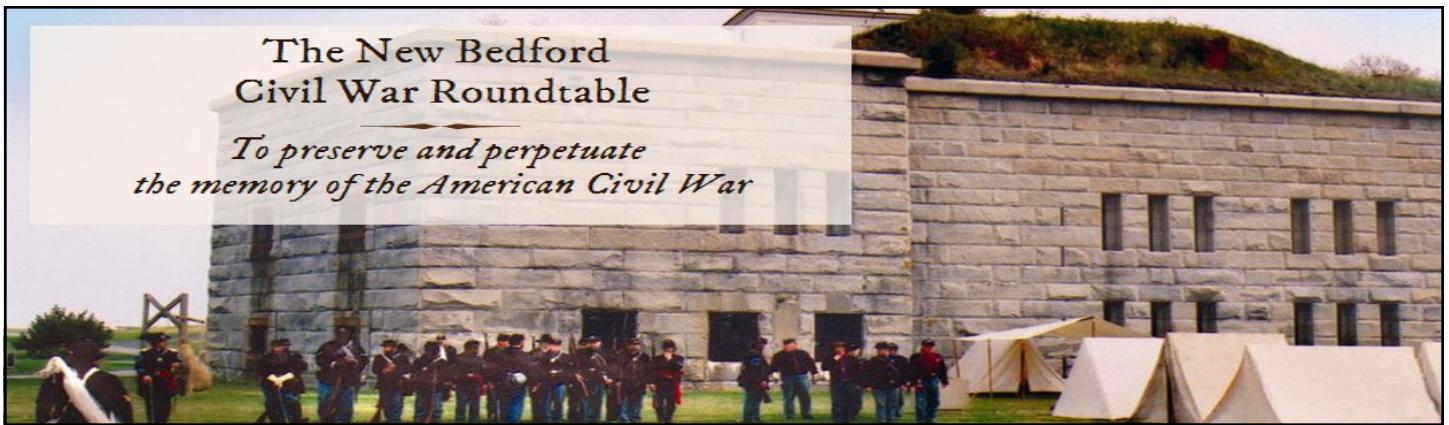
***General Leonid E. Kondratiuk, Co-chair of the Massachusetts WW1 Centennial Commission and Director of History for the Massachusetts National Guard***

***Lecture subject: New Bedford's 2nd Field Artillery, which became the 102nd FA Regt, 26th Yankee Division***

**Sunday November 11, 2108**

***Stephan Taber, Co-chair of the Massachusetts WW1 Centennial Commission***

***Lecture topic: Keynote address of the Military Museum Armistice Commemoration***



### SPEAKER LINE UP AND SCHEDULE FOR 2018–2019

June 26, 2018	Annual Meeting and Picnic
July 12, 2018	World War 1 Speaker Peggi Medeiros—Local Historian
July and August	Round Table Summer vacation
Early September	Ranger Troy Harman , Gettysburg National Park, special presentation
September 13, 2018	World War 1 Speaker General Leonid E. Kondratiuk—WW1 Centennial
September 24, 2018	Col. Kevin Weddle—Revolutionary War Presentation at Ft Taber
September 25, 2018	Col. Kevin J. Weddle, PhD - Prelude to Antietam
October 23, 2018	Kate Taylor- Living History Presentation—Mary Surratt ; - Guilty or Not Guilty?
November 13, 2018	Megan Kate Nelson—War in the West
December 11, 2018	Annual Holiday Party
January 22, 2019	Chuck Veit—How the Union Navy prevented a world war
February 26, 2019	Tom Nester from Bridgewater State U