MEET THE MARCH SPEAKER, - AUTHOR JAMES B. CONROY

IN FEBRUARY 1865, Abraham Lincoln slipped quietly out of the White House and travelled south to Virginia to meet Confederate leaders on a steamboat at Hampton Roads. Their goal was a peaceful end to the Civil War.

OUR ONE COMMON COUNTRY tells their story, the first book ever written about the only presidential peace mission in America’s wartime history.

2015 Finalist for the prestigious
GILDER-LEHRMAN LINCOLN PRIZE

“Conroy is a terrific writer who tells the story of one of the war’s least known episodes... Great anecdotes... you’ll find yourself pausing every few pages and saying, ‘I never knew that, my favorite kind of book!’”- BOB SCHIEFFER, CBS NEWS

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

Our paid dues membership for 2016 now exceeds 35. We are grateful to those that sent in their dues, in support of our Round Table. There were about 40 in attendance at our Feb meeting. As usual, Mark Mello’s Feb presentation was well researched and well received. We would like to see our Round Table grow still larger. And, because of your support, we continue to attract excellent speakers. March is a good example—Author James B. Conroy is first rate and you will not wish to miss this presentation. Please spread the word that we are a vibrant, enthusiastic, and growing organization.... Bob

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2016 Speakers
March 22 James Conroy
April 26 John Rodrigue
May 24 John Foskett
June 28 Picnic
July-Aug Vacation
September 27 Matthew Cost
October 25 David Prentiss
November 15 Megan Kate
December 13 Holiday Dinner

The New Bedford Civil War Roundtable | To preserve and...
Clara Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross, was born in North Oxford, Massachusetts, on December 25, 1821. She worked as a volunteer nurse during the Civil War, distributing food and medical supplies to troops and earning the label 'Angel of the Battlefield.' She later served alongside the International Red Cross in Europe, however, she could not work directly with the organization because she was a woman. In 1882, she formed an American branch of the Red Cross. Barton lobbied for the Geneva Convention and expanded the mission of the Red Cross to include helping victims of peacetime disasters.

Clara Barton died at her home in Glen Echo, Maryland, on April 12, 1912, when she was 90 years old.

Doctor Mary Edwards Walker was the first woman awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Mary Walker was born in Oswego, in upstate New York, in 1832. Mary enrolled in Syracuse Medical College and graduated with a doctor's degree in 1855. Dr. Walker went into private practice and married Albert Miller, also a physician, and the couple moved to Rome, NY. At the outbreak of the Civil War, she volunteered in Washington to join the Union effort, and worked as a nurse in a temporary hospital. In 1862, Dr. Walker went to Virginia to provide medical care to the wounded, and in 1863, she was appointed surgeon. In 1864, she was apparently a prisoner of war, and exchanged for a Confederate. In 1865, she was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for her work. She was the first woman to receive the award, although her name was removed from the honor list of awardees in 1917, along with others, when the terms used to designate eligibility for the award were revised. She refused to surrender the medal, however, and continued to wear it for the rest of her life. In 1892, she was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, and in 1893, she was awarded the Medal of Merit and the Medal of Honor of the American Red Cross.

Despite the controversy surrounding her career and her politics, Dr. Mary Walker was proud of her accomplishments.

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Plan Your Travels

- Antietam National Battlefield, near Sharpsburg (MD), offers ranger-led, two-hour hikes beginning March 20. Series continues most Saturdays and Sundays through April 30.
- Gettysburg National Park offers a variety of ranger-guided programs and battlefield walks throughout the year. Winter lecture series runs through the end of March. Check the park website for details.
- The Virginia Military Institute and the Stonewall Jackson House announce the 16th Biennial Stonewall Jackson Symposium May 27 and 28th. Leading historians and biographers will explore Jackson’s leadership, his early combat experiences in Mexico, his failure of leadership during the Seven Days, his relationship with J.E.B. Stuart, and the role of historical fiction. Register at www.stonewalljackson.org.
- And, finally, please don’t forget to support your local National Park Service. There are several programs currently ongoing. Plan your travels. Enjoy your visit!
John Foskett is our May, 2016 speaker. He earned his B.A. from Notre Dame and his J.D. from Boston College Law School. His topic? Let’s assume you know the Governor of Massachusetts. Abraham Lincoln has called for 75,000 troops after Fort Sumter. The Massachusetts Governor has stopped by your home and appointed you Captain, Battery “A”, 1st Mass Light. This is a newly formed Battery. What do you next. John Foskett will be your guide. John is a well known expert on Civil War artillery tactics

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The Army Military Staff Officers

Civil War staff officers were vital to the operations of Civil War armies. Their efforts ensured that the armies were not only prepared for battle, but also had all necessary supplies to travel and camp throughout the war. So, let's look at a few of the critical positions.

Chief of Ordnance, - This Department was developed in 1812, and was responsible for managing the army’s supply of weapons—cannons, muskets, swords, pistols, ammunition, and more.

Chief of Artillery, - The role of Chief of Artillery was to organize and train artillerymen. This included moving both the artillerymen and cannons to specific locations on the field of battle.

Chief of Commissary, - The Commissary Department was responsible for supplying foodstuffs to all soldiers. “An army marches on its stomach,” once opined Napoleon. Just as important as the supply of weapons was the constant supply of food to keep the armies nourished to the best of the Commissary Department’s ability. Each soldier was allocated a certain supply of food per meal, per day—known as a ration.

Inspector General, - The role of the Inspector General was defined to include the following duties: organize and discipline the army; visit and inspect the camps, prisons, hospitals, and places of arms; designate men and horses unfit for war; and examine the books of quartermasters, paymasters, and companies to ascertain the balances. It was also a key position of the Inspector General to inventory and manage all supplies.

Medical Director, - The Medical Director served as the coordinator for all medical staff. This includes surgeons, field hospital staff, nurses, etc. All entities worked toward the same mission of saving as many lives as possible, efficiently, and in a sanitary way.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE—NAME THESE FAMOUS CIVIL WAR GENERALS

Was it too easy? .....Bob

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):______________________________________
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NEW TO CIVIL WAR HISTORY?

How was the Army of the Potomac organized from the top down? Here is a handy chart for you to examine. And there were seven Corps with General Meade at Gettysburg.

The Confederate Army was organized a little bit different. Here is Gen’l Lee’s command at the Battle of the Wilderness.

From Mark Mello’s Feb presentation, - Devil’s Den and Hobart Ward’s Brigade, - second day of Gettysburg