THE FLAGBEARER

Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table
Tuesday, October 25, 2016, 7:00 pm
Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum

MEET JAMES B. CONROY OUR OCTOBER SPEAKER

Lincoln’s White House: The People’s House in Wartime is James Conroy’s newest book. It will be released Oct 15.

This book is devoted to capturing the look, feel, and smell of the executive mansion from Lincoln’s inauguration in 1861 to his assassination in 1865. James Conroy brings to life the people who knew it, from the servants to cabinet secretaries. We see the constant stream of visitors, from the ordinary citizens to visiting dignitaries and diplomats. James Conroy enables the reader to see the how the Lincolns lived and how the administration conducted day-to-day business during the four of the most tumultuous years in American history. Relying on fresh research and a character-driven narrative and drawing on untapped primary resources, he takes the reader on a behind-the-scenes tour that provides new insight into how Lincoln lived, led the government, conducted war, and ultimately, unified the country to build a better government of, by, and for the people. — from the review on the Amazon website.

.........James B. Conroy has brought Lincoln’s White House to life, letting readers step through the gates, past the guards, and into the presence of the Great Emancipator. Sit in Lincoln’s office and observe a cabinet meeting, or watch the president and first lady shake hands with guests at a reception. Eavesdrop on conversations with office seekers, or enjoy a serenade. By recreating moments—great and small—of joy, grief, exhaustion, commotion, and solitude, Lincoln’s White House gives us a new appreciation for the burdens of Lincoln and his family. (Jonathan W. White, author of Midnight in America: Darkness, Sleep, and Dreams during the Civil War.)
**Fact Sheet— American Civil War**

Two percent of our population died in it—more than 620,000.

In two days at Shiloh on the banks of the Tennessee River, more Americans fell than in all the previous American wars combined.

At Cold Harbor, Va, 7,000 Americans fell in 20 minutes.

Missouri sent 39 regiments to fight in the siege of Vicksburg: 17 to the Confederacy and 22 to the Union.

During the Battle of Antietam, Clara Barton tended the wounded so close to the fighting that a bullet went through her sleeve and killed a man she was treating.

Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., future Chief Justice, was wounded three times during the Civil War: in the chest at Ball’s Bluff, in the back at Antietam, and in the heel at Chancellorsville.

Confederate Private Henry Stanley fought for the Sixth Arkansas, and was captured at Shiloh, but survived to go to Africa to find Dr. Livingstone.

George Pickett’s doomed infantry charge at Gettysburg was the first time he took his division into combat.

On July 4, 1863, after 48 days of siege, Confederate General John C. Pemberton surrendered the city of Vicksburg to the Union General Ulysses S. Grant. The Fourth of July was not celebrated in Vicksburg for another 81 years.

Disease was the chief killer during the war, taking two men for every one who died of battle wounds.

African Americans constituted less than one percent of the northern population, yet by war’s end made up ten percent of the Union Army. A total of 180,000 black men, more than 85% of those eligible, enlisted.

*Source-Ken Burns, PBS*

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**Massachusetts in the Civil War**

Here are some well known Massachusetts natives that contributed much to the Civil War effort.

- **Major General Joe Hooker**
- **Major General Edwin V. Sumner**
- **Major General Darius N. Couch**
- **Dorothea Dix, Founder of the Army Nurses Bureau**
- **Henry Whitney Bellows, Founder of the United States Sanitary Commission**
- **Independent Nurse Clara Barton**

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*This past September we lost Barbara Bedell, a valued member of our board. She served as our treasurer for several years and in that role demonstrated her ability to be a capable financial manager of our funds. However it will be her personal qualities which we will miss the most. She was a kind, gentle but firm woman who enjoyed a good laugh and who brought to our board meetings all that is special about having a lady in your presence. - Joe Langlois, President, New Bedford Civil War Round Table*