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April 2020

Meet Mark Mello, new President of the Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table'



Stuck At Home?



Now is a good time to discover the Civil War at the American Battlefield Trust website. Battlefield maps, narratives, guides, articles, videos, resources can be found at this website. Also historian Garry Adelman's Civil War Facebook Page is a must—he guides you across battlefields, almost daily with short, concise videos.

2020 Executive Board

Mark Mello— President

Bruce Baggarly—V President

Martin Flinn—Treasurer

Jack Richer—Board of Directors

Peter Rioux—Board of Directors

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Bob Randall—Librarian

Bob Macfarlane—Board of Directors Emeritus

Bob Lytle—Flagbearer/Programs

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# THE FLAGBEARER

## Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table New Bedford, Massachusetts

April 2020

**No April Meeting Scheduled**

### ...News from the New Bedford Civil War Round Table Executive Board

..At a March meeting of the Executive Board, **Mr. Mark Mello** was elected to the office of President of the New Bedford Civil War Round Table. Mr. Mello will assume the leadership position of the Round Table, as a result of the passing of our long-time leader, Joe Langlois.

..At the same Executive Board meeting, **Mr. Jack Richer**, was appointed to the Board of Directors. Jack will replace our long time friend, **Bobby Watkins**, who is retiring from an active role on the Board. Bobby will certainly be at the monthly meetings with his wife Rillis. We salute Bobby's long service to the Round Table.

..**Will we have a May 26th monthly meeting?** We haven't cancelled as yet, but stay tuned. We meet in a museum that is until the control of the City of New Bedford. We follow the mandates coming from City Hall.

..**Will there be a Memorial Day Rural Cemetery ceremony?** Same answer as above. Depends on the City of New Bedford. Rural Cemetery is managed by the City of New Bedford. Let's hope we can do the service. We would organize on short notice, and we are prepared to do so.

..The Annual Book Award that is presented to a high school graduating student from the area school systems, has been renamed the **Joseph E. Langlois Book Award**. The applications were mailed out to the participating high schools, and essays have been arriving in the mail. The deadline was March 27th. Over 20 submissions were sent to us.

..We are transitioning to a **digital electronic version of the Flagbearer**. The printed hard copy version of the Flagbearer is reduced due to printing and mailing costs.

..Our monthly **speaker schedule for 2020 is complete**. We will get that schedule published to you very soon. We now begin the speaker search for 2021.

..**Have you "liked" us on Facebook?** It is a great Facebook page, and is updated and refreshed in a timely way. Stayed up-to-speed with your Round Table by frequently checking our Facebook page.

..The New Bedford Civil War Round Table has achieved a milestone, - **62 paid dues members**. Thank you to all that support our Round Table.

..No April meeting, but I hope you are finding time to pull from the bookshelf your favorite Civil War reading material.

## Structure and Command of the Union Army

### Regiment

When asked what unit he was with, most Civil War soldiers would respond with the name of their regiment, the primary fighting unit of the Union Army, and usually carried the name of the state of origin and the chronological number of the creation of that regiment (eg. The 6th Wisconsin)

A newly formed regiment contained about 1,000 officers and enlisted men, made of 10 companies, each made up of 97 men and 3 officers. Companies were commanded by captains. A colonel commanded a regiment, followed in succession by a lieutenant colonel and a major.

### Brigade

Two to six regiments made up a brigade, but commonly four. A brigade was commanded by a brigadier general, who reported directly to the division commander. Brigades were identified by numbers, such the Fourth Brigade.

### Division

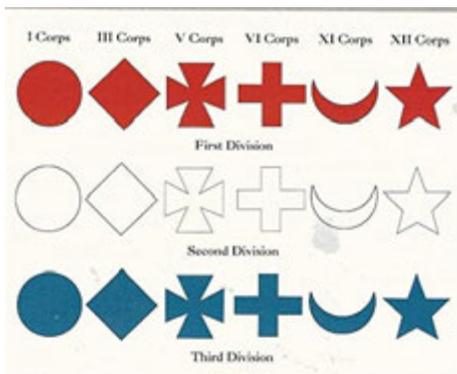
Brigades made up divisions. Three to five brigades made up a division. A division was commanded by a major general.

### Corps

A corps could contain between two and four divisions, but usually a corps was three divisions, commanded by a major general. Usually the corps symbols were colored red, white, and blue.

### Army

An army was a fighting force made up of two or more corps and was commanded by a general. The Union armies were generally named after rivers or waterways. (eg. The Army of the Potomac, or The Army of the Tennessee, as an example.)



## Spring 2020 Speaker/Meeting Schedule

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April 21, 2020

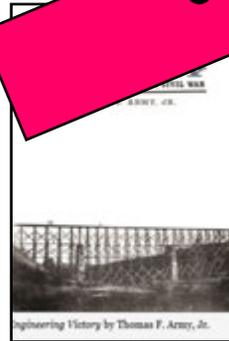
Tom Army Jr.

Engineering Victory; How Technology Won the War for the Union

Dr.

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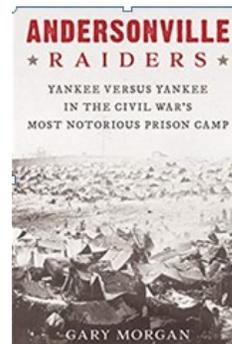
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May 26, 2020

Mary Gorman A.K.A. Gary Morgan

"The Andersonville Raiders"

The first book devoted exclusively to the Andersonville Raiders.



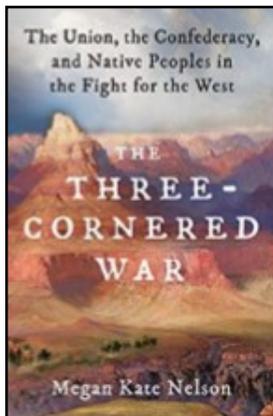
On the evening of July 11, 1864, six men were marched into Andersonville Prison, surrounded by a cordon of guards, the prison commandant, and a Roman Catholic priest. The six men were handed over to a small execution squad, and while 26,000 Union prisoners looked on, the six were hung. The six, part of a larger group known as the Raiders, were killed, not by their Rebel enemies but by their fellow prisoners for the crimes of robbing and assaulting their own comrades.

Latest news from Megan Kate Nelson

....A frequent speaker and friend of this Round Table , Dr. Megan Kate Nelson, has kicked off her 2020 book tour and will be our speaker in September at the New Bedford Civil War Round Table. Mark your calendar for September 22, 2020. Her new book, *Three Cornered War*, is getting excellent reviews.

One review noted, - " A dramatic, riveting , and deeply researched narrative account of the epic struggle for the West during the Civil War, revealing a little-known, vastly important episode in American history. "

I urge you to order a copy of her new book, " The Three-Cornered War"



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

...As always, we need several of you to arrive around 6:30 pm on meeting night and help set up the room. It is very much appreciated.

...Don't forget to tell your friends that we have a Facebook page. It is an excellent source of information about our upcoming meetings.

...The Boston Civil War Round Table announced that it cancelled this year's "5 Days in May" bus tour of the Shenandoah Valley battlefields. Al Smith reports that he plans to be back with a stellar 2021 "5 Days in May" trip.

NEW BEDFORD CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

2019-2020 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership is valid for 2019-2020 Program Year, beginning September 1, 2019. Please complete this form, along with check payable to "New Bedford CWRT" and mail to:

New Bedford Civil War Round Table, C/O Martin Flinn, Treas., 39 Little Oak Road New Bedford, MA 02745

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ (Please print)

Type of membership: Individual (\$25.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$30.00) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### *This month in Civil War history—April 1861*

*By the first of April, 1861, seven slave states had not yet joined the Confederacy, - Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Missouri, and North Carolina. The Lincoln administration is struggling with the question of what to do about Fort Sumter, provision it or surrender it.*

*April 6...Pres. Lincoln informs South Carolina, - attempt to be made to supply Fort Sumter*

*April 11... Surrender of Fort Sumter demanded by Confederates*

*April 12...Fort Sumter is fired upon and fires back. War begins!!*

*April 13...Fort Sumter surrenders*

*April 15... President Lincoln publicly issued a proclamation declaring that an insurrection existed, calling out seventy-five thousand militia troops from the various northern states and convening Congress in special session for July 4th.*

*April 18...Five companies of Pennsylvania troops arrive in Washington. The U.S. Armory at Harper's Ferry is abandoned and burned by the garrison stationed there. A pro-secession flag is raised on Federal Hill in Baltimore.*

*April 19...Baltimore riots . Lincoln declares blockade of Confederate states*

*April 20... Federals evacuate Norfolk, Virginia, Navy Yard. Washington was still isolated due to the Baltimore riots*

*April 23... U.S.S. Pawnee arrived in Washington from Norfolk, strengthening the defenses of the Federal capital*

*April 30...Members of the New York Yacht Club proffered the services of their vessels to the Federal government*

### **The 12 –pounder Napoleon Gun-Howitzer 1857**

This was the primary cannon used during the Civil War. It was light, versatile, safe, had killing power, and could fire canister, ball, shell, or grape. It was cast bronze (the green ones on the battlefield), smoothbore, and easily pulled by a team of horses. The Union Napoleons generally had the flared front muzzle, or muzzle swell. It should be explained is to why this field piece was so popular. Prior to the French development of this artillery piece, there were three categories of field artillery; (1) guns (cannons) that fired their shots in a straight trajectory, (2) a howitzer that fired their shots in an arc trajectory, and (3) mortars that fired shots in high arcs over the walls into the enemy forts. Each had a purpose, a cannon could blast through a wall, a howitzer, with a shorter barrel could loft a shot over the wall in an arc, and mortars the high arc. In the field, this required the armies to transport ample ammunition, different types, weights, calibers, for multiple functions. This was a quartermaster/ordnance nightmare.

During the Crimean War, (French vs. Russia) the U.S. Government sent a delegation to Europe as observers. You will remember the story of George McClellan being a member of that group which resulted in the famous patented cavalry saddle design, called the McClellan Saddle". Also in that commission was Alfred Mordecai, our country's best expert in artillery field pieces. He observed the 12-pounder Napoleon Gun-Howitzer, named after 'the' Napoleon's nephew. He noted its versatility, 500 lbs lighter than a standard 12-pounder, mounted on a wheeled carriage, and ideal for field work. But, best of all, it eliminated the ordnance issue i.e., having to carry along a wide assortment of ammunition stock.

Napoleon III allowed the Commission to transport the French designed 12-pounder gun-howitzer back to America, and soon, the U.S. began producing the American version.

Within months, the U.S. had hundreds in the field. They proved to accurate out to 2,000 yards, and with canister, effective at close range. Eventually, the U.S. produced 1,157 Napoleons, and the Confederates 535 versions of their own field piece. P.s. my apologies to the several readers that I know to be artillery experts. RLL

