

THE FLAGBEARER

Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table New Bedford, Massachusetts HOLIDAY ISSUE



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HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM THE ROUND TABLE PRESIDENT—MARK MELLO

Dear friends in the Civil War,

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I would like to offer you a sincere thank you for being a member of this organization. In a time when many Civil War Round Tables are struggling to find new members and attendance at meetings is dropping, we have seen an increase in membership and our attendance at monthly meetings remains high. This is no doubt thanks to the top-notch group of historians who give of their time to speak to us each month, and most importantly, to each of you. It is your dedication to education and learning which allows us to function as an organization. So thank you for your continued dedication to the New Bedford Civil War Round Table.

I'm also thankful that we will be moving back to in person meetings in the month of January. This has been a long time coming. I look forward to gathering with all of you at our new location, The Low Tide Yacht Club. This space will provide us with more room to gather safely, but still be within the Fort Taber complex where we have met for years. For those of you who have been joining us virtually, no need to fear. We'll be filming our presentations and posting them to Round Table's YouTube page (see announcements in this issue of the Flagbearer for more details).

And that brings me to the next thing I'm thankful for. Over the past few months, Bob Lytle and Don Brown (our new Outreach Coordinator) have been working with New Bedford Public Broadcasting to ensure that our meetings will be filmed and edited. They have spent hour attending classes, learning how to use the equipment and how to edit the filmed content. Now, our meetings will be filmed and posted on our YouTube page. The meetings will also be shown on New Bedford Public Broadcasting and will be available for folks to purchase. This will be both a great recruiting mechanism for our organization, and it will ensure that the great content covered by our speakers will be available to wide audiences for years to come. Thank you, Bob and Don, for taking the initiative on this project!

As you can see, there is much to be thankful for, and there is also much to look forward to. As our organization continues to grow and develop in the year to come, I look forward to continuing our education and preservation of the history of the American Civil War.

Your obedient servant,
Mark Mello
President



2021-2022 Executive Board

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- Bob Macfarlane**—Board of Directors Emeritus
- Website by Following Sea Design**
- Bob Lytle**—Flagbearer and Zoom set up
- Cell # 508-542-7630
- bobbylee76@comcast.net

News from the New Bedford Civil War Round Table

- When we meet in January, it will be in-person at the Low Tide Yacht Club, 1000 Rodney French Blvd, New Bedford. This is a new location, next door to our old meeting room at the Ft Taber~Ft Rodman Military Museum. Parking is free and you should park where you always have been parking.



- We will be masked—even if you have both shots and a booster. It is a City of New Bedford building and this is City policy, - everyone is to be masked.



- Cancellation Policy.

In the event of a snow storm—if the City School system is shut down, you can be sure we have cancelled the meeting. But check our Facebook page to be sure.



- The New Bedford Civil War Round Table has signed on as a partner with the New Bedford Historical Society for a Zoom meeting in February, in addition to our regularly scheduled monthly in-person meeting. The New Bedford Historical Society will host Valerie Craigwell White, author, and expert on Rev. William and Jane Jackson. Who was Rev. Jackson? The February interview and presentation with Ms. White will open up a fascinating life story of an African American, a resident of Oak Bluffs, Martha's Vineyard, and New Bedford. Ms White is his great-great granddaughter and is writing a book about him. Rev. Jackson's journal is housed at the Whaling Museum. His was an extraordinary life during the 1850's and 60's.



Civil War Round Table Annual Holiday Dinner

CENTURY
HOUSE



It was a delight to see all of you at the dinner—all 51 of you, a great turn out. President Mark Mello MC'd an excellent program. Pete Rioux led a spirited Civil War Trivia Q & A.

A special thanks to all the new folks that came to the dinner. We hope to see you at our first in-person meeting January 25.

Larry Roy showcased his harmonica skills for our entertainment.



February 22, 2022

Megan Kate Nelson, Ph. D returns to the New Bedford Civil War Round Table.

She will introduce her latest book, "Saving Yellowstone"



Each year nearly four million people visit Yellowstone National Park, but few know the fascinating and complex historical context in which it was established. In late July 1871, the geologist-explorer Ferdinand Hayden led a team of scientists through a narrow canyon into Yellowstone Basin, entering one of the last unmapped places in the country. The survey's discoveries led to the passage of the Yellowstone Act in 1872, which created the first national park in the world.

Author Megan Kate Nelson examines the larger context of this American moment, illuminating Hayden's survey as a national project meant to give Americans a sense of achievement and unity in the wake of a destructive civil war.

Saving Yellowstone follows Hayden and two other protagonists in pursuit of their own agendas: Sitting Bull, a Lakota leader who asserted his peoples' claims to their homelands, and financier Jay Cooke, who wanted to secure his national reputation by building the Northern Pacific Railroad through the Great Northwest. Hayden, Cooke, and Sitting Bull staked their claims to Yellowstone at a critical moment in Reconstruction, when the Grant Administration and the 42nd Congress were testing the reach and the purpose of federal power across the nation.



A narrative of adventure and exploration, Saving Yellowstone is also a story of indigenous resistance, the expansive reach of railroad, photographic, and publishing technologies, and the struggles of Black southerners to bring racial terrorists to justice. It reveals how the early 1870's were a turning point in the nation's history, as white Americans ultimately abandoned the higher ideal of equality for all people creating a much more fragile and divided United States.

January 25, 2022

Patrick Donovan, Vice President—Varnum Memorial Armory Museum, The Varnum Continentals, the Continental Militia , and the James Mitchell Varnum House



This will be an in-person meeting at the Low Tide Yacht Club, located next door to the Ft. Taber~Ft Rodman Military Museum, located in Ft. Taber Park , South end of New Bedford.

We will be making our first attempt at doing a video of this presentation and linking it to our Facebook page or to a YouTube Channel.

If you are an out of town member, we wish to have you included in our monthly meetings via the internet.



Varnum Memorial Armory Museum

The first Christmas of the War.

What was happening December 25, 1861?

It was a busy Christmas Day in the White House. Mr. Lincoln and his cabinet met for lengthy discussions about the British demands for the release of Confederate commissioners Mason and Slidell. A decision was to be made the next day. The Lincolns at Christmas dinner entertained many guests.

The shooting did not stop. There was skirmishing at Cherry, West Virginia and at Fort Frederick Maryland.



March 22, 2022

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.



May 24, 2022

Jamie Malanowski

Commander Will Cushing, U.S. Navy, Daredevil Hero of the Civil War

Theodore Roosevelt said Will Cushing "comes next to Farragut on the hero roll of American naval history"

Come hear the story by noted author Jamie Malanowski next May, in person at the Low Tide Yacht Club.



**New Bedford Civil War Round Table
2021-2022 Membership Form**

Program Year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

Please fill out this form and make check payable to "New Bedford CWRT"

Mail to: New Bedford Civil War Round Table

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

Name (s) _____

Type of Membership _____ Individual (\$15.00) _____ Family (\$20.00)

Address: _____

City, State, & Zip: _____

Cell or Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Date: _____

Thank you for being a member of the New Bedford Civil War Round Table