

# THE FLAGBEARER

## Greater New Bedford Ma Civil War Round Table

**Tuesday February 25, 2020 7:00 pm**

**at the Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum**

**1000c Rodney French Blvd. New Bedford**

**Open to the public , no fees, no reservations needed**

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

....The February Flagbearer will be a shorter edition. I'm taking a short winter vacation .

...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 Face-book page. It is an excellent source of information about our upcoming meetings.

...Our January Flagbearer mailing contained a flyer on the "5 Days in May" annual field trip/tour sponsored by Al Smith and the Greater Boston Civil War Round Table. If you believe you might want to be on this trip, make your reservation soon.

...Membership update. 42 of you have renewed your annual membership by submitting your annual dues. We are looking for 12 additional 2019 members to reup for 2020. Please check your records. Thank you.

### Mark Mello, Speaker

February 25, 2020

Mark Mello, Park Ranger

Subject: "Abolitionists, Pacifists, and the Dilemma of the American Civil War in Hopedale, MA." As always, Mark's lectures are well researched and delivered.



Mark has a M.A. in U.S. History from Providence College, and a B.A. in History from Bridgewater State University. Mark is a life-long historian, with a special love of American Civil War studies. He currently works for the National Park Service at Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park as a Park Ranger and a Public Historian. He has taught classes at Massasoit Community College and the Second Half Life-Long Learning Center in Fall River. He is a Civil War Reenactor and has lectured on topics related to the American Civil War, Reconstruction, and the Antebellum Period, to numerous groups including Civil War Round Tables, Historical Associations, public libraries, and schools.

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### Historical notes on Civil War Round Tables.....

Ralph G. Newman (1911-1998) was a Lincoln scholar, expert manuscript appraiser, and prominent civic leader in Chicago, Illinois. He founded the renown Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago. Part of his motivation for establishing the shop was to serve the circle of friends devoted to the study of the Civil War and the Great Emancipator. Among his customers were writers and historians such as Carl Sandberg, Bruce Catton, E.B. "Pete" Long, Stanley Horn and more.

On Dec 3, 1940, when the 29-year-old Newman and fifteen friends went to dinner at the Bismarck Hotel before listening to Percival G. Hart's presentation of "Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign", it led to their becoming the charter members of the very first Civil War Round Table. This, in turn, spawned hundreds of Round Table discussion groups that meet across the country and around the world.

In 1957, the Greater Boston Civil War Round Table was established. And the New Bedford Civil War Round Table began meeting just over 10 years ago.

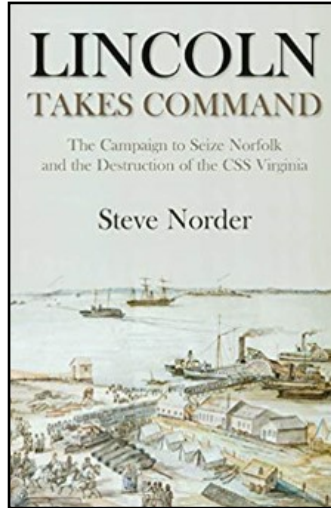
#### 2019-2020 Executive Board

- Joe Langlois—President
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- Cell # 508-542-7630  
bobbylee76@comcast.net

**New Books for your Library**

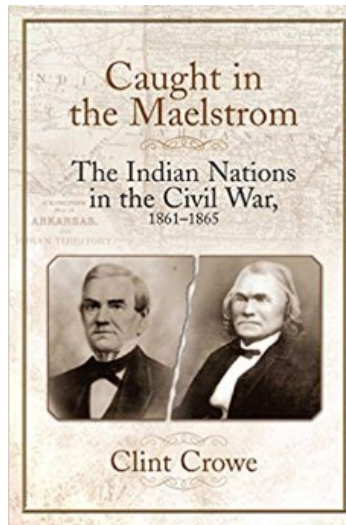
**Lincoln Takes Command: The Campaign to Seize Norfolk and the Destruction of the CSS Virginia.** by Steve Norder

On a rainy night during the Civil War Lincoln boarded a ship to Fort Monroe in Hampton Roads. The trip resulted in the only time that a sitting President took control of military forces, both army and navy, to wage a war with wide ranging consequences. A great story by author Steve Norder.



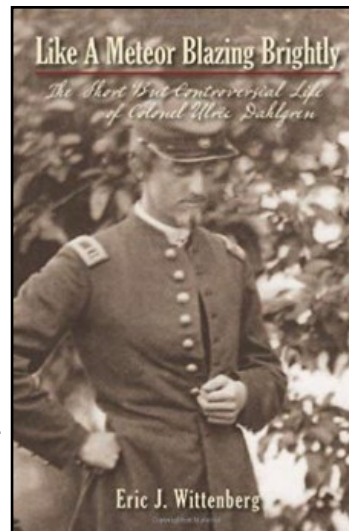
**Caught in the Maelstrom: The Indian Nations in the Civil War, 1861-1865.** by Clint Crowe

The sad plight of the Five Civilized Indian Tribes during America's Civil War is both fascinating and often overlooked in the literature. The Indians fought their own bloody civil war on lands surrounded by the Kansas Territory, Arkansas, and Texas.



**Like a Meteor Blazing Brightly: The Short but Controversial Life of Colonel Ulric Dahlgren.** by Eric J. Wittenberg

The only biography on Ulric Dahlgren, a brilliant, ambitious young man who became the youngest full colonel in the Union Army by age 21, yet died before his 22 birthday. This account chronicles his full life story. Learn how Lincoln may authorized the kidnapping of the entire Confederate cabinet, including President Jefferson Davis.



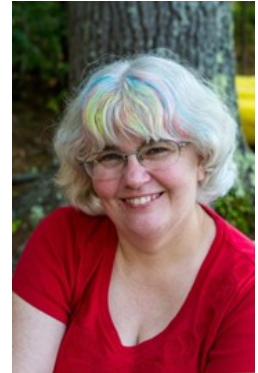
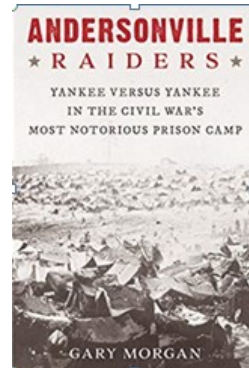
**Spring 2020 Speaker/Meeting Schedule**

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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.***

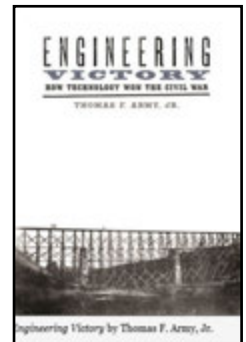


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**April 21, 2020**

**Tom Army Jr.**

**Engineering Victory: How Technology Won the War for the Union**



**Dr. Thomas F. Army is an adjunct professor at Quinebaug Valley Community College, Connecticut**

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**March 24, 2020**

**David A. Kelly Jr.**

**Associate Professor, Joint Military Operations**

**Program Manager, Graduate Degree Education, College of Distance Education**

**U.S. Naval War College—Newport, RI**



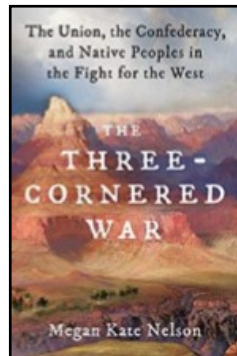
**Topic: "The Sultana Tragedy"**



### Latest news from Megan Kate Nelson

...A frequent speaker and friend of this Round Table , Dr. Megan Kate Nelson, is kicking off her 2020 book tour with a visit to the New Bedford Civil War Round Table, September 22, 2020. Her new book, Three Cornered War, is set for a spring release; - Feb 11. This is her third book.

For a preview of her book , pick up a copy of “America’s Civil War” magazine. Her book is featured on the cover, with an excerpt of the book and intro by Ms. Nelson



### Why Should We Study History ?

1. *To help us develop judgment in worldly affairs by understanding the past behavior of people and societies. If decision makers do not consult history, they make decisions without all the facts.*
2. *To help us understand change and how the community, nation, and world we live in came to be.*
3. *To help us develop essential skills for good citizenship. The cornerstone of democracy is an informed citizen.*
4. *To inspire us. History teaches us that a single individual with great convictions can change the world.*
5. *To help us develop essential thinking skills. We must learn to assess the validity of evidence, evaluate conflicting points of view, and apply facts to making decisions.*

*From an internet article by Dr. Peter Sterns*

### This month in Civil War history - 1861

*...Feb 1 The Convention of the State of Texas votes 166 to 7 in favor of secession. At Springfield President-Elect, Abraham Lincoln, privately wrote William H. Seward, “I say now, however, as I have all the while said, that on the territorial question– that is, the question of extending slavery under the national auspices, - I am inflexible.” He opposed any compromise “which assists or permits, the extension of the institution on soil owned by the nation”*

*...Feb 4 Convention of seceded states meets in Montgomery Alabama.*

*...Feb 5 The Buchanan administration announced to the South Carolina commissioner that under no circumstances would Fort Sumter be surrendered.*

*...Feb 6 The Lincolns held a farewell reception at their home in Springfield*

*...Feb 9 Jefferson Davis is elected Provisional President of the Confederacy. Alexander Stephens is named Vice-President*

*...Feb 11 Two Presidents depart. Lincoln from Springfield, Ill, and Davis from Brierfield on the Mississippi River*

*...Feb 22 “ I have never had a feeling politically that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence,” Mr. Lincoln said in a Washington birthday speech at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. In Charleston the people celebrated Washington’s birthday just as they had in Philadelphia. Far out in San Francisco a mass meeting declared itself in support of the Union.*

*...Feb 27 President Davis appointed 3 Confederate commissioners to Washington , to attempt negotiations with the Federals.*

*...Feb 28 No. Carolina voters turned down a state convention on secession by 651 votes*

## ED BEARSS STORY THANKS TO THE CLEVELAND OHIO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

We all know Ed Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus, National Park Service. Ed is still actively leading battlefield tours and handling speaking engagements from coast-to-coast. He was born on June 26, 1923, in Billings Montana. I came across an article at the website for the Cleveland Ohio Civil War Round Table. It chronicles Ed's experience in WWII, in his own words. I thought it was very interesting. But first some background.

Bearss graduated from Hardin High School in 1941 and enlisted in the Marine Corps on April 28, 1942, and by July was on a troop ship headed for the Pacific War. He was with the 3rd Marine Raider Battalion, 7TH Regt, 1st Marine Division, in the invasion of Guadalcanal and the Russell Islands, in New Britain. On Jan 2, 1943, here is Ed's story.

***I was on my knees when the first bullet struck. It hit me in my left arm just below the elbow, and the arm went numb. Then I was hit again, another sledgehammer blow to my right shoulder. There was now dead men lying all around me. As I lay there bleeding I noticed it growing dark, although it was only about noon.***

***The Japanese began shooting the wounded Marines, I was able to crawl away with tracers screaming about an inch above me. Another bullet grazed my butt and another hit my foot. A corpsman gave me a morphine shot and then with the help of my lieutenant I was dragged away to safety.***

Corporal Bearss spent the next 26 months in hospitals and was discharged in March of 1946, While recuperating, he renewed his interest in the Civil War by reading books from the San Diego Naval Hospital. If not for his serious wounds Ed believes he may have wanted to stay in the Marines Corps.



### 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: \_\_\_\_\_