

# THE FLAGBEARER

## Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table New Bedford, Massachusetts Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 7:00 pm

*This issue of the Flagbearer*  
 ....Mask Policy for upcoming meetings  
 ...Storm cancellation policy  
 ...Meeting location is the Low Tide Yacht Club  
 ...Upcoming speakers  
 ....Dues renewal form  
 ...Flyer on Al Smith's "4 Days in May" Field Trip. **If you are considering this trip, please call Al Smith @ 617-484-5613 and tell him. He needs to determine the size of the bus, which is a major expense and is part of the final calculation on trip cost.**  
 ...Another great essay from our Vice President Peter Rioux, this time on General O.O. Howard. An argument could be made that he selected the high ground ( Cemetery Hill )at Gettysburg on the first day, and the rest is history.  
 ...Flagbearer Quiz throughout  
 ...News from the Round Table

Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 7:00  
 At the Low Tide Yacht Club Location  
 1000b So. Rodney French Blvd New Bedford  
 No charges or fees for the program  
 Ample parking \*\* Bring a friend \*\* Wear a mask

Our scheduled speaker for February was Dr. Megan Kate Nelson. Her new book "Saving Yellowstone" is to be released March 1. Her publisher has booked her on several radio podcasts which created a conflict with our February 22 date. She has agreed to a new speaking date with us, - September 27.

This explains why the photo here is not Dr. Megan Kate Nelson , but is our member Jack Richer. Jack will be presenting a very interesting program on the Battle of Antietam. Was it a draw? Jack is popular on the Round Table circuit. He promises to bring us new information gleaned from a recent Antietam symposium .



Jack Richer



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**Bob Lytle**—Flagbearer  
 Cell # 508-542-7630  
 bobbylee76@comcast.net

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 We are nearing the close of our dues renewal season. 53 members reupped for the new year, and 9 members did not. Given the Covid situation , that's a pretty good renewal rate.

Don Brown reports that 26 people have viewed our January 25 meeting at the Low Tide Yacht Club on our new You Tube Channel. The viewing count came within 48 hours of posting. Fantastic !!!

Flagbearer quiz question: Name the individual who was a slave to the attorney who prosecuted the Dred Scott case in St. Louis, and later worked in the Lincoln White House.

Answer on page 10

## News from the New Bedford Civil War Round Table

- The January 25 went very well. We were all masked. Don Brown, our Digital Outreach person video'd the presentation and the link sent to our membership. We will continue to be in-person at the Low Tide Yacht Club, 1000b So. Rodney French Blvd, New Bedford. This is a new location for 2022 and is 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 continue to 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.



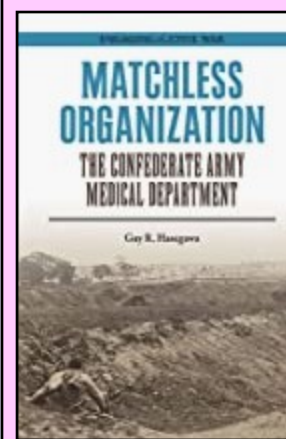
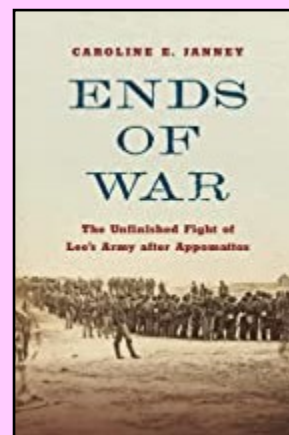
- To all members that received a link to our new You Tube channel and enjoyed seeing the January 25 meeting and Mark Mello's presentation, please "subscribe" to our channel and hit the "like" key.
- Thinking about attending the Civil War Institute's Annual Summer Conference? It is June 10-15 at Gettysburg College. The speaker lineup this year is very impressive. Check out CWI at Google to find the link to their registration page.
- Speaking of You Tube, the Gettysburg National Park Ranger Winter Lectures are now posted, and yes ,Troy and Matt are among the presenters.

## NEW BOOKS THAT YOU MAY WISH TO READ

The Ends of War: The Unfinished Fight of Lee's Army after Appomattox

By Caroline E. Janney

In this dramatic new history of the weeks and months after Appomattox, Janney explores this confusing time period marked by military and political uncertainty, and continued outbursts of violence.



Matchless Organization: The Confederate Medical Department

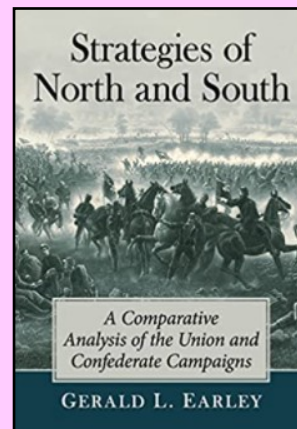
By Guy R. Hasegawa

Despite the many obstacles it had to overcome, including a naval blockade, lack of a strong industrial base, and personnel unaccustomed to military life, the Richmond based Confederate Army Medical Department developed into a robust organization that nimbly adapted to changing circumstances.

Strategies of North and South

By Gerald L. Early

Since the Antebellum days there has been a tendency to view the South as martially superior to the North. In the years leading up to the Civil War, Southern elites viewed Confederate soldiers as gallant cavaliers, their Northern enemies as mere brutish inductees. An effort to give an unbiased appraisal, this book investigates the validity of this perception, examining the reasoning behind the belief in Southern military supremacy, why the South expected to win, and offering a cultural comparison of the antebellum North and South.



April 26, 2022 Speaker

David Prentiss

Long time member of the New Bedford Civil War Round Table

His topic:

*The Art of Generalship: Grant's Vicksburg Campaign*



The capture of Vicksburg was one of the most difficult military objectives of the Civil War. Grant's campaign in the spring of 1863 which led to the siege of the city was a masterful example of generalship that at the time was compared to Napoleon's greatest military achievements. David will examine the intricacies of Grant's operations and the critical decisions he made which led to the campaign's success.

David teaches part time at UMass Dartmouth in the Political Science Department. He has a B.A. in Philosophy from Assumption College, a M.A. in Political Science from Boston College, and a Juris Doctor degree from New England School of Law.

David has given several presentations to our Round Table, usually on the subject of Abraham Lincoln, as he is considered an expert on Lincoln.

He is currently the President of the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra

We look forward to another interesting evening with David Prentiss

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Flagbearer quiz question

Who was the biggest fool on April Fool's Day of 1865?

Answer on page 10

Civil War Timeline—1862

...Feb 3 President Lincoln turned down an offer from the King of Siam for "war elephants"

...Feb 6 Grant captures Fort Henry, Tennessee

...Feb 8 Battle for Roanoke Island North Carolina Burnside attacks with 7500 men

...Feb 9 Brig. Gen'l Charles P. Stone is arrested and jailed without specific charges, blaming him for the defeat at Ball's Bluff. Never charged, he is released in August.

...Feb 9 The war correspondent for the New York Herald is jailed as spy

...Feb 13-15 Battle for Fort Donelson. Buckner surrenders. Grant offers no terms but "Unconditional Surrender". As we know, Franklin Roosevelt repeats this phrase in Casablanca early in WW2. The Buckner-Grant relationship is well worth reading.

...Feb 20 At the White House, William Wallace "Willie" Lincoln died at the age of 12 of typhoid

...Feb 21 Engagement at Valverde in the New Mexico Territory It is a Confederate victory for General Sibley over General Canby's Federals

...Feb 22 Inauguration of Jefferson Davis. "The tyranny of the unbridled majority, the most odious and least responsible form of despotism, has denied us both the right and the remedy. Therefore we are in arms to renew such sacrifices as our fathers made to the holy cause of constitutional liberty," spoke Jefferson Davis.

...Feb 23 The battle is on for Nashville. By Feb 25, Union forces occupy Nashville.

...Feb 25 The Federal War Department orders the control of all telegraph wires in order to facilitate military moves.

...Feb 26 Mr. Lincoln signed the Loan and Treasury Bill creating a national currency of United States notes and providing for sale of stock to finance the currency.

...Feb 28 Federal forces under John Pope moved south along the west shore of the Mississippi River in another drive against the Confederates. Meanwhile Mr Lincoln is questioning General McClellan regarding his failure to institute operations at Harpers Ferry. The General responds that pontoon boats sent north were too large for the canal locks. We will hear that one again won't we.

...Feb 28 President Jefferson Davis orders the Confederate nation into a day of fasting and prayer.

...Northern Armies were on the move in all key geographic areas.

March 22, 2022

Mary Gorman A.K.A. Gary Morgan

"The Andersonville Raiders"



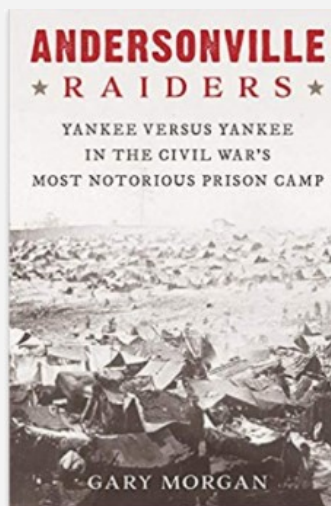
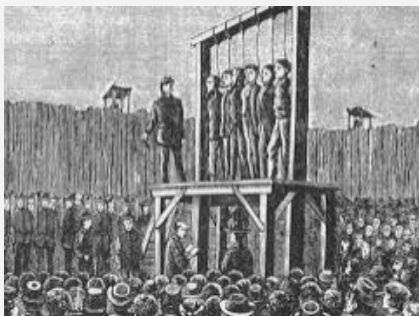
The first book devoted exclusively to the Andersonville Raiders. On the evening of July 11, 1864, six men were marched into Andersonville Prison, surrounded by a cordon of guards, the prison commandant, and a Roman Catholic priest. The six men were handed over to a small execution squad, and while 26,000 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.

Who were these men? Were they really guilty of the crimes they were accused of? Were they really, as some prisoners alleged, murderers? What role did their Confederate captors play in their trial and execution? What brought about their downfall?

Relying on military records, diaries, memoirs written within five years of the prison closing, and the recently discovered trial transcript, author Gary Morgan has discovered a version of events that is markedly different from the version told in later day "memoirs" and repeated in history book.

Here, for the first time in a century and a half, is the real story of the Andersonville Raiders.



May 24, 2022

Jamie Malanowski

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



It was October 1864. The confederate ironclad CSS Albermarle had sunk two federal warships and damaged seven others, taking control of the Roanoke River. Twenty-one year old navy lieutenant William

Barker Cushing hatched a daring plan: to attack the fearsome warship with a few dozen men in two small wooden boats. What followed, the close-range torpedoing of the Albermarle and Cushing's harrowing two day escape downriver is one of the most dramatic individual exploits in American military history.

Theodore Roosevelt said that Cushing "comes next to Farragut on the hero roll of American naval history" but most have never heard of him today.



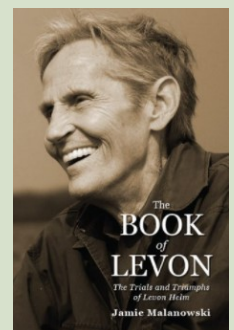
A thrilling narrative biography, steeped in tactics, weaponry, and battle techniques of the Union Navy, Commander Will Cushing brings to life a compelling but flawed figure. Along with three brothers, including the one that fell at Gettysburg, Cushing served with bravery and heroism. But he was irascible and complicated—a loveable rogue, prideful and impulsive, who nonetheless possessed a genius for combat.

In telling Cushing's story, Malanowski paints a vivid, memorable portrait of the army official, engineers, and politicians scrambling to win the war.

We are pleased to be a part of Jamie's New England tour.

Please note Jamie's other book, for those that have followed music from The Band

Remember "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down"



September 27, 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.



Dr. Megan Kate Nelson

A Feedback request from our Digital You Tube Operations Manager, Don Brown

Now that the Round Table has done one You Tube video, Don Brown would like to hear from you.

...What would you like to see improved?

...Can we add or subtract anything?

...Did you hit the "Subscribe" key?

...Did you hit the "Like" key

...Is there an ideal length of time, should Don edit down to a certain time frame limit?

Please give us your suggestions. Email Don Brown at

[donbrown1541@gmail.com](mailto:donbrown1541@gmail.com)

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The new meeting location at the Low Tide Yacht Club seems to have worked out very well for our meeting, plenty of space to social distance, everyone can see and hear the speaker, free parking, easy access



through the front door to the meeting room, rest rooms, and when the weather warms up we can open the doors at two sides of the room. Plenty of seating. A video screen is available. The parking lot is well lit, and the City of New Bedford Police actively patrol the area. We thank the Low Tide Yacht Club Commodore, Joe Pacheco for his welcoming effort. He has even suggested that if we desired, we could organize a coffee setup, perhaps a Duncan Donut "Box of Joe". And please remember there is handicap parking right in front of the entry door for you convenience. Joe will continue to open our doors around 6:15, for a 7:00 pm start.

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The speaker scheduling for 2022 is moving forward with Larry Monastesse in charge. Only the October and November dates are open, and that will soon be remedied.

Have you noticed how quickly our communication emails are posted on our Facebook page? David Prentiss handles our Facebook page and Lucy Iannotti of A Following Sea manages our website.

We continue to search for a recording secretary for our Round Table. Can you help? Contact Mark Mello.

Oliver Otis Howard  
"The Christian General"  
By Peter Rioux

Oliver Otis Howard may not have been able to attain significant historical recognition among Civil War historians over the past one hundred and fifty years, but during his career, he transcended and directly affected this country's tragic experience in a civil war in which he participated in the command of nine major military campaigns, the promotion and advancement of civil and human rights for Black Americans, and the resolution of conflict with native Americans in the west.



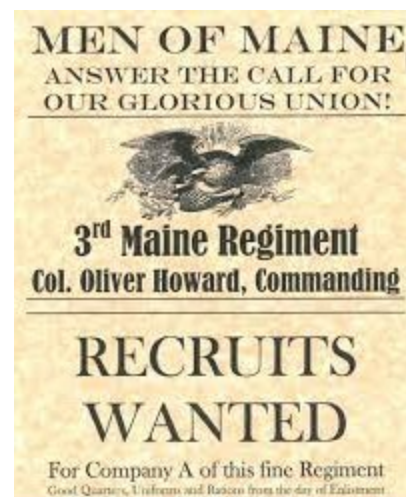
Oliver Otis Howard's life was deeply rooted in New England. He was born in 1830 and raised on a farm in Leeds, Maine, led a Maine regiment, and lived his final years in Burlington, Vermont. His father died when Oliver was nine years old. He later attended and graduated near the top of his class at the age of nineteen from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine.

He subsequently attended West Point, graduating with a rank of fourth in a class of forty-six and served as a cadet quartermaster. Upon graduating, after committing to remaining in the Army, he was appointed, due to his high-class ranking, to the Ordinance Department, assigned to Troy, Maine and then Augusta, Maine. He was later transferred to Tampa, Florida to participate in the Seminole Wars. At this time, in 1856, he developed a deep and abiding Christian conviction and awakening, immersing in and also sharing his biblical studies with his Florida commander. He attended religious revival meetings and bible class sessions and conducted Sunday school. As an inspiring experience, he would occasionally cite his intervention to assist black churchgoers from being blocked by white parishioners while attempting to attend church services.



In the aftermath of the Florida Seminole Wars in 1857, he accepted a position as a math instructor at West Point. At this time, his Christian beliefs became more pronounced. In addition to his math courses and serving as Academy librarian, he delivered religious lectures to interested cadets and was appointed Superintendent of the Academy's Sunday school. By 1860, he gave serious consideration to attending theological seminary and pursuing a career in the ministry, but changed his mind in the immediate aftermath of the Confederate attack upon Fort Sumter in April 1861 saying that he needed to "put aside our personal desires and rally to the nation's defense."

His deep engagement in an extensive military career first began with his appointment to lead the Third Augusta, Maine Regiment; an appointment that was partially facilitated among Republicans for his strong and ardent abolitionist views



However, the early portion of Howard's military experience while serving in the eastern theater of the war was of mixed success. At the first Battle of Bull Run, the brigade he was temporarily commanding was forced to retreat. While serving under McClellan during the second day of the Battle of Seven Pines at Fair Oaks in June 1862 leading Union troops in a counterattack against a Confederate assault, he was wounded twice in the elbow and forearm requiring amputation of his right arm between his elbow and shoulder.

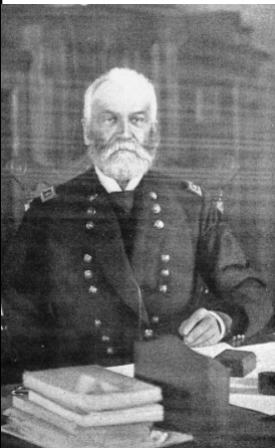
Howard's act of gallantry in action earned him the recommendation of thirty-six of his fellow brigade officers and was the basis for McClellan's decision to appoint him to command the Second Division. In addition, Howard's demonstration of bravery later resulted in his being awarded the Medal of Honor in 1893 with the citation reading, "He led the 61<sup>st</sup> New York Infantry in a charge in which he was twice seriously wounded in the right arm, necessitating amputation." After completing only a three-month recovery by September 1862, he rejoined the Union Army as Division Commander at the Battle of Antietam. He was later promoted to Major General, commanding the 11<sup>th</sup> Corp in April 1863.



At Chancellorsville, mistakenly believing that Confederates were coordinating a retreat, Howard's 11<sup>th</sup> Corp was criticized for being out-flanked to its right requiring a forcible retreat. Later at Gettysburg, during the battle's first day, Howard established a Union defensive position at Cemetery Hill after withdrawing from the town, which proved to be advantageous and formidable for the Union during the battle's subsequent two days. For this action, in January of 1864, Howard received a congressional commendation (along with Meade and Hancock), one which he did not seek. A monument of Howard was erected at this defensive Gettysburg's site in 1832.

In November 1863, Howard was assigned to serve under Grant as part of the Union's Western Theater Campaign. His 11<sup>th</sup> Corp was included in the Army of the Cumberland achieving in 1862 significant success at the Battle of Chattanooga, enabling the Union to assert control of Tennessee, including its Chattanooga rail center. General Sherman later appointed him to assume command of the Army of Tennessee after the Battle of Atlanta.

Howard's Corp was then positioned on Sherman's right flank during his March to the Sea through Georgia and the Carolinas. Sherman was generous in his praise of Howard informing others that Howard was his "best general" and writing to Howard that "Should fortune bring us together again in any capacity, I will deem myself most fortunate." As a culminating military honor, Sherman selected Howard to ride alongside of him at the head of the Union's Western Army in the Victory Grand Review Parade in Washington at the end of the war in May 1865.



In 1865, in the immediate aftermath of the war, Howard was informed by Secretary of War Stanton that President Lincoln had intended to appoint him as Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau to lead the Reconstruction effort in the South. Sherman wrote to him, "I cannot imagine that matters that involve the future of four million of souls could be put in more charitable and conscientious hands." Howard served the Bureau to advance its mission from 1865-1872 in its effort to enhance income opportunities, political representation and voting rights, educational advancement, food and clothing distribution and medical care for former slaves.



Founders Library is an iconic building on the Howard University campus that has been declared a National Historic Landmark.

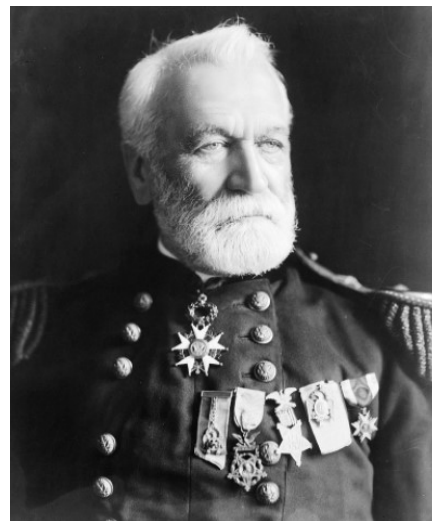
In 1867, he helped to establish Howard University, later serving as its president, to offer medical, law, and theological education. This nonsectarian university was named after him to honor his leadership of the Freedmen's Bureau and his strong belief that expanding the availability of educational opportunities through Freedmen's schools and higher education institutions, such as Howard University, could best promote black opportunities in passing from slavery to freedom. He maintained a lifelong commitment as a Howard University Trustee to the promotion of the University's high academic standards of excellence. Prominent University graduates include Vice President Kamala Harris, Justice Thurgood Marshall, Congressman Elijah Cummings, UN Ambassador Andrew Young, and Senator Edward Brooke.

After serving in the Freedmen's Bureau, in 1872, at President Grant's request, he coordinated a peace treaty with the Apache Indians and white settlers in Arizona, the assignment of the Nez Perce Tribe to reservations in the Pacific Northwest, served as Superintendent of West Point, and assumed additional military commands in the east and west.

During his retirement years in 1894, he wrote multiple biographies, including that of Zachary Taylor and his own autobiography, continued to advance the cause of education for Black Americans, delivered lectures on his war experiences, campaigned for Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt, who referred to Howard as "that living veteran of the Civil War whom this country most delights to honor," helped found and manage Lincoln Memorial University in eastern Tennessee honoring the 16<sup>th</sup> president's desire to promote higher education and raised funds for the Lincoln Centennial Celebration.

He died at the age of 78 of a heart attack and was buried in Burlington, Vermont.

His legacy remains one in which he is viewed as a competent military leader who continued to learn the lessons of early military mistakes to achieve later success commanding large bodies of troops and earning the admiration of his fellow commanders for his reliability and cooperative support and demonstrating a bravery in battle that was never questioned. Starting as a young student, he maintained a lifelong commitment to both the abolition of slavery and the advancement of human rights for Black Americans. He developed and sustained a lifelong and consistently expressed commitment to the precepts of his faith, earning him the praise and admiration of those who fondly referred to him during his life and since his passing as the "Christian General."



O. O. Howard



Al Smith of the Civil War Round Table of Greater Boston has announced his 2022 "4 Days in May" Field Trip. Please see the enclosed flyer.

## **AL SMITH'S 4 DAYS IN MAY TRIP**

The corona virus did not beat us. We are back and stronger than ever. Our trips have only been on a holding pattern but **WE ARE BACK**

The 2022 trip will be from May 12, 2022 to May 15, 2022 and will give everyone an opportunity to see some of the most beautiful views this country has to offer

The trip will include the following

We will depart Boston by air conditioned coach bus supplied by New Travel Transportation Co. Pickup will be at Riverside MBTA Station and the Sears parking lot at the Auburn Mall

Three nights hotel accommodations at the Inn at Saratoga Springs, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

All admission charges

Dinner on Saturday evening at Wheatfields Restaurant, Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

Tips and donations are included

We will visit the Robert Todd Lincoln mansion in Manchester Village, Vt.

Onward we go to visit the campus at West Point, N. Y. and museum

**A valid government ID or passport is required for entrance to West Point**

Continuing will be a visit to the Ulysses S. Grant summer home Wilton, N. Y.

Because of our history, I have included several Revolutionary War sites to visit

The cost of this great trip is \$855.00 for a single and \$600.00 for a double rate

So come join us for another great Civil War experience

A \$50.00 deposit will hold a reservation for you on this great trip. The total cost for a single reservation is \$ and for a double reservation is \$ Send your check payable to:

Civil War Roundtable of Greater Boston to Al Smith 11 Poplar St. Belmont, Ma. 02478 If you have any inquiries call Al at 617 – 484 5613 or at his E mail address [ohjudyoh@yahoo.com](mailto:ohjudyoh@yahoo.com)

**TRULY A SUPER TRIP**

**FLAGBEARER QUIZ**

.....Page 1 question about the former slave that worked at the Lincoln White House.

Answer is Elizabeth Keckley. Born a slave in North Carolina, she was given to her master's daughter on her marriage to attorney Hugh Garland of St. Louis. Although Garland tried the Dred Scott case in the Supreme Court of Missouri, he was not a prosperous attorney. Elizabeth was able to earn enough money from dressmaking to buy her son's freedom. She settled in Washington D.C. where she worked for the antebellum "rich and famous" including Mrs. Jefferson Davis, a Senator at the time., and then Mary Todd Lincoln. During those year's she became Mrs. Lincoln's friend and confidante.

.....Page 3 question on the biggest fool on April Fool's Day. It is General George Pickett.

As if having a failed battle charge named for him isn't enough, Pickett suffered further humiliation in the closing days of the war. On April 1, 1865 his troops were attacked at Five Forks while he was two miles away enjoying a shad bake with Generals Fitzhugh Lee and Thomas Rosser. Atmospheric conditions muffled the sounds of battle so they remained unaware of it until they returned. By that time it was too late, and the final defeat of the Confederate forces was all but complete. Pickett spent the rest of his life selling insurance, and after his death, his child-bride LaSalle spent the rest of her life writing books and articles to clear his name.

Lee, in April 1865 said to his aide, " Is that man ( Pickett) still with the Army? "

.....Who was the youngest General in the Union Army?

Answer. Galusha Pennypacker. Brevetted a Brigadier at age 20. Stayed in the Army after the war and fought out west as Colonel of the 34th U.S. Infantry.



**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**