

# THE FLAGBEARER

## THE GREATER NEW BEDFORD CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

February 28, 2023 6:00 P.M.

Low Tide Yacht Club Location, Doors open at 5:15, 1000 Rodney French Blvd, NB

*This issue of the Flagbearer*

*...Feb speaker is David Prentiss*

*...March speaker is Patrick H. Breen*

*...Pete Rioux's Essay*

*...Dues and Membership form*

*...News from the Round Table*

*...Match the General to his nickname*

*...What did Union Soldiers carry?*



*This will be an in-person meeting. No Zoom available.*

**Speaker**

### David Prentiss

*Topic: Ulysses S, Grant's reputation as a general has never been without controversy. From his earliest days of command to the present day, there has been an abundance of both praise and blame for his generalship. The eminent Civil War historian, Bruce Catton, was on the praise side of this debate and made the case for Grant's greatness in three books, Grant Moves South, Grant Take Command, and U.S. Grant and the American Military Tradition. David's talk will examine Catton's arguments in favor of Grant and elaborate the key points Catton makes about Grant's generalship from Fort Henry to Appomattox.*



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*David has been President and CEO of the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra since 2008. Prior to that, he served on the Board of Trustees. David has sat on many boards, advisory councils and committees for nonprofits in the local community including the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center, New Bedford ballet, AHA!, Tri-County Symphonic Band, South Coast Chamber Music Society, South Coast Humane Society and Shelter, Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society, Alma del Mar Charter School and Our Sister' School. He also teaches part time in the Political Science Department of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. David has a BA in philosophy from Assumption College, a MA in political science from Boston College and a Juris Doctor degree from the New England School of Law.*

February 2023						
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**Tuesday, Feb 28th 2023**

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# THE FLAGBEARER

THE GREATER NEW BEDFORD CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

March 28, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

In-person meeting at Low Tide Yacht Club Location. Doors open at 5:15 p.m.

**PATRICK H. BREEN**

Associate Professor, Providence College

Ph. D. University of Georgia

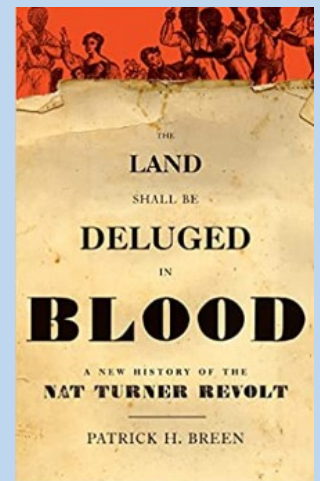


...From Michael W. Coffey of *The North Carolina Historical Review*

“ (A) fascinating account of the 1833 Nat Turner rebellion in Southampton County Virginia and its aftermath. The book provides both an excellent narrative history of the events and an analytic framework to examine important issues in southern historiography...The Land Shall Be Deluged in Blood is a significant contribution to the literature on Nat Turner and the 1831 uprising. It is highly recommended to those interested in the Turner rebellion, slave resistance, and the coming Civil War.”

...from Oxford University Press. “Challenges the argument that Thomas Gray manipulated the Confessions of Nat Turner and the figure of blacks killed without trial after the revolt.”

Also....”Offers a revisionist and comprehensive narrative of the most famous slave revolt in American history.”



March 2023						
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Tuesday, Mar 28th 2023

You are seeing the February and March Flagbearer together for a reason. I'll be on vacation for a few weeks. I plan to be back at the publishing desk by the first of April.....Editor



## What did Union Soldiers carry?

For a soldier, equipment is a matter of survival in combat, on the road, in the field, summer and winter. Here is a list of some of his equipment, and a list of personal items carried.



Hardtack, ca. 1865



Kimball Civil War canteen, ca. 1862



Civil War bullet case, ca. 1862



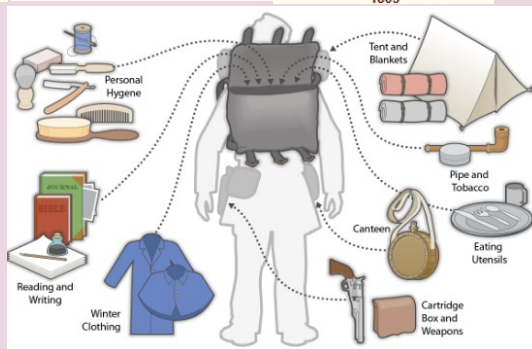
Civil War Army Blanket, ca. 1865



George H. Libby knapsack, ca. 1861



Compass



Hairbrush

Shaving kit

Soap

Sewing kit

Toothbrush

Comb Tobacco

Pipe Candles

Pictures

Whiskey flask

Corkscrew

Extra buttons

Games

Musical instruments

Matches

Wool socks

Extra shirt and underwear

Mirror

Tin Plate for eating

Knife, fork, spoon

Extra pair of boots

Suspenders

Coffee



## News from the New Bedford Civil War Round Table

...A huge thank you to Board Member Jack Richer for donating the funds enabling the Round Table to purchase a projector for monthly meetings.

...We appreciate those that Zoomed with us for the January meeting.

...Please be sure to check our Facebook page for the latest news. Subscribe and check the notification tab for Round Table alerts. You will find links to videos of prior meetings

...We also keep our website current with the latest news, including the Flagbearer.

...Bring a friend to the meeting. There is no charge for guests. Remind guests that there is ample parking at the Ft Taber Park , Low Tide Yacht Club location. Doors open at 5:15 for coffee and refreshments.

...Mark your calendar, - our Memorial Day Ceremony at Rural Cemetery will be Saturday May 27, at 9:00 a.m.

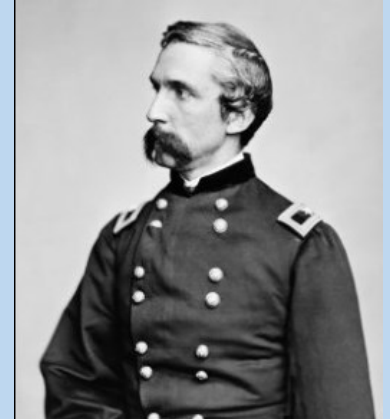
...Please take a moment to read Pete Rioux's excellent essay on Col. Joshua Chamberlain, 20th Maine



## Joshua Chamberlain: The Soul of a Lion by Peter Rioux

After having been recognized for his heroic achievements during the war to save the Union, Joshua Chamberlain continued to actively pursue a purposeful and accomplished life of service in the aftermath of the nation's most divisive and tragic conflict.

It was a conflict in which he served in Maine's Fifth Corp / 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment and participated in twenty-four battles and engagements, being wounded on six different occasions. He suffered the most serious of his injuries, which were thought to be mortal, during the Battle of Petersburg in which a mini ball penetrated and traversed his body from pelvis to pelvis, damaging his bladder, causing him constant pain for the remainder of his life.



He was merit promoted three times and honored when he was designated by General Grant to formally receive the surrender of fifteen thousand troops of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox in April 1865, allowing the Confederate troop line to surrender with honor and dignity.



Upon his discharge from military service in 1866 and his return to his home state of Maine in the immediate aftermath of the war, he was encouraged to seek the nomination of the Republican Party as Governor, even though he was not considered to be a party insider with expressed political involvement. He was elected by the highest margin in the state's history, subsequently serving as Chief Executive for four consecutive one-year terms from 1867-1871. He chose not to seek re-election for a fifth consecutive term.

He was generally regarded as an accomplished Governor during his term of office. In promoting Maine's economic expansion, he supported extensive transportation, including railroad, system improvements, a business expansion loan program, ship building, and out of state investment. He was very proud of his farsighted effort to undertake a hydrographic survey to identify all of the state's water resources, such as dams and turbines to capture power and generate electricity to support mill expansion.

He emphasized educational enhancement efforts, supporting a new agricultural college, later to become the University of Maine, and focused upon the need for early child education and teacher training. He promoted increased immigration and the expansion of the state's mental health efforts through the expansion of hospitals for the insane, and strict laws to protect the fish and game industry.

In 1871, he was selected as President of Bowdoin College, serving for twelve years after initially being elected unanimously by the Board of Trustees. His selection allowed Chamberlain to return to a primary interest he had held for years – the educational enhancement of his state's youth.



During his tenure, he achieved mixed success. He achieved substantial fundraising increases and the enlargement of the college's curriculum to include sciences, modern languages, and engineering. He established a Master of Arts degree program, and expanded the faculty, including ten new professorships, completion of Memorial Hall, renovation of the campus dormitory facilities, and a new gymnasium.

However, the Science and Engineering Departments were closed in 1880, and Chamberlain's creation of a military and drill instruction program ended after one year due to its declining popularity among the student body. He resigned as President of the college after the completion of a twelve-year tenure in 1883, and the health challenge he experienced from his war related wounds.

In January 1880, while also serving as Commander of the Maine Militia, he was able to successfully protect the State House for twelve days from a protesting mob contesting the gubernatorial election, despite the threats to his life, allowing sufficient time for the State's Supreme Court to resolve the issue. When directly confronting the aggressive crowd, he said, "I'd given my life before and I'm going to give my life now. I'm going to see this thing through and make sure it's done right. So if you're going to kill me, kill me now." The crowd dispersed.



After completing his service as Bowdoin President, and despite the continuous painful challenges he experienced from his war afflictions, and a series of six surgeries, he continued to lead an active life of commitment, involvement and perseverance.

He lectured at Bowdoin, achieving the distinction of teaching every course, except math and the physical sciences, offered at the college between 1855 and 1885. He developed a fluency in seven languages.

He delivered speeches at soldier reunions, former battlefields, and paid return visits to Gettysburg enabling him to reconnect with his "dead brothers so that they might continue to live for us." In 1893, he delivered a memorable speech dedicating the Maine monuments at Gettysburg honoring those veterans who had invested their noble service in the nation's unifying effort. He became actively involved in the GAR, joining numerous veterans' organizations.

In August 1893, he was awarded the Medal of Honor for his Gettysburg action at Little Round Top. The medal's citation reads, "For daring heroism and great tenacity in holding his position on Little Round Top against repeated assaults and carrying the advance position on the Great Round Top. His Medal of Honor remains on display at the Chamberlain Museum located at his former home in Brunswick, Maine.



The expression of Chamberlain's tenacity was further evidenced when he volunteered to participate in the Spanish / American War; an application which was denied by the War Department due to his health.

During the 1890's, he became involved in real estate and land development in Florida, railroad expansion in California, and textile and tourist company investments. He was also appointed Surveyor of the Port of Portland.



After his wife Fanny's passing in 1905, he continued to deliver speeches and write articles pertaining to his war experience, including his poignant recollection of Lincoln, writing, "He was a reconciler of the divided." He also completed his book The Passing of the Armies, one of the best accounts of the closing days of the war, which was later published in 1915, one year after his passing.

In 1908, Bowdoin held an honors ceremony for him, unveiling his portrait. He participated in the planning of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gettysburg Battle in 1913, but he was not able to attend the actual event due to his declining health.

In early 1914, Chamberlain became very ill, an illness largely attributed to complications from the wounds he had suffered almost one-half century earlier, and which had challenged him since that time, but never evoked his complaint. He died on February 24, 1914, at his home in Brunswick, Maine, at the age of eighty-five with Dr. Abner Shaw, the surgeon who had operated on him in 1864 at Petersburg, at his side. He was the last veteran of the Civil War to die as a result of his war related wounds.



His honoring funeral services were held three days later at City Hall in Portland and the First Parish Church in Brunswick with over three thousand attendees, including state officials, GAR representatives, Bowdoin college faculty, and National Guard members. In his eulogy for Chamberlain, Bowdoin College President Hyde expressed the sentiments of a grateful nation and state when he said, "All he said and did was bright and brimming with an ardor of idealism, which in the home was devotion, in the college was loyalty, in the state and nation was patriotism, and toward humanity and God was religion."



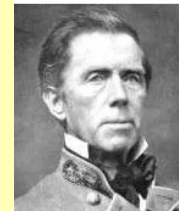
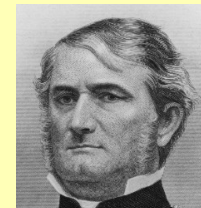
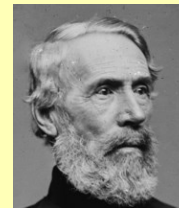
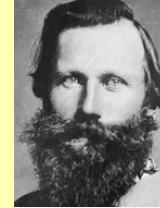
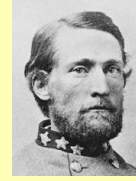
Thousands of visitors continue to honor Joshua Chamberlain by visiting his home and museum in Brunswick, located directly across the street from Bowdoin College, the twentieth Maine Monument at Little Round Top at Gettysburg, and his gravesite at Pine Grove Cemetery near his home.

General Horatio Sickles captured the meaning of Chamberlain's life when he expressed that Chamberlain had **"the soul of a lion and the heart of a woman."**



**MATCH THE GENERAL TO THE NICKNAME**

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Beauty              | A. Kilpatrick        |
| 2. Old Blinky          | B. Meade             |
| 3. _____ the Superb    | C. Mosby             |
| 4. Old Brains          | D. Sherman           |
| 5. Uncle Billy         | E. William Smith     |
| 6. The Grey Ghost      | F. Sedgwick          |
| 7. Uncle John          | G. Thomas            |
| 8. "Extra Billy"       | H. Butler            |
| 9. The Fighting Bishop | I. J.E.B. Stuart     |
| 10. Kill-Cavalry       | J. William H. French |
| 11. Slow Trot          | K. Halleck           |
| 12. Beast              | L. Hancock           |
| 13. Snapping Turtle    | M. Edwin Vose Summer |
| 14. Bull               | N. Leonidas Polk     |



1-I, 2-J, 3-L, 4-K, 5-D, 6-C, 7-F, 8-E, 9-N, 10-A, 11-G, 12-H, 13-B, 14-M

**THE NEW BEDFORD CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

**2022-2023 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Program Year is July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$25.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$30.00)

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

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

Cell or Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_