

THE FLAGBEARER

Greater New Bedford Mass Civil War Round Table

June issue of the Flagbearer

**Our Annual June Picnic is postponed until July
We will notify you by email of the new date in July**

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

...Our Annual Round Table June picnic is postponed. A new date in July will be scheduled for the picnic. We will notify you by email when the July date has been selected.

...A huge thank you to those that attended our Rural Cemetery Memorial Day service.



Larry Roy Mark Mello

... The 5 Days in May trip was a success. Pete Rioux recaps the highlights of the Washington D.C. trip in this issue.



This year's Memorial Day Service at Rural Cemetery was a success. Highlighted here are photos printed with permission of Standard Times/Southcoast photographer David W. Oliveira.

Our gratitude to the new participants , Jack Richer and Jack Byrnes, for the reading of General Logan's Order and the Gettysburg Address. In addition , soloist Colleen McDonough's Battle Hymn of the Republic was well received. A special thank you to our President Joe Langlois for handling the program , along with returning participants Ruth and Abby, Mark Mello, Larry Roy, Bob Bromley, and the Color Guard/Rifle Squad.. The City of New Bedford had the site well prepared.



President Joe Langlois



Jack Byrnes reads Logan's Order



Abby and Ruth with Mark Mello present the wreath



Jack Richer reads the Gettysburg Address

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Under the category of "Did You Know?"

"Real Daughter" Irene Triplett lives in Wilkesboro, North Carolina and is the daughter of Union Private Moses Triplett who served in the 3rd Mounted North Carolina Infantry, nicknamed "Kirk's Raider". In 1938, Moses Triplett attended the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg with more than 1,800 veterans from both sides. He passed away on July 18, 1938, age 92, days after returning home from the Gettysburg reunion. Irene is the last living recipient of VA benefits connected to the Civil War.

....from The Banner Vol 123, #2, Journal of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

NEW VENUE FOR OUR HOLIDAY DINNER

The New Bedford Civil War Round Table is moving the December Holiday dinner to The Century House, 107 South Main Street, Acushnet. The dinner will be on December 10th AT 6:00 PM. It's not too early to put that on your fall calendar.



....Please consider talking to a friend about membership in our Round Table. We cannot exist without your support, and your enthusiastic spreading the word of our existence. We inform, learn, preserve history, study the Civil War, enjoy camaraderie, and for one night a month, are in the majority with our interest in talking about it. We have 62 paid members, with monthly attendance around 30-35. We could use more support. While we do not pay for speakers for our meetings, we do have a scholarship fund, and we do have expenses during the year. For example our meeting room at the Military Museum at Fort Taber-Fort Rodman comes to us no charge, however, we do make a small donation to the Historical Association that oversees the Museum. So, call a friend that you think might enjoy hearing a good quality speaker on Civil War history. If you want them to receive a "Flagbearer", email me at

bobbylee76@comcast.net

I will include them in our monthly mailing. Bob Lytle

Additional photos of Rural Cemetery Service, photo credit to David W. Oliveira, Standard Times



"If other eyes grow dull and other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remains in us."

By order of John A. Logan, Commanding, G.A.R.

The Jubilee Committee of the Olde Colony Civil War Round Table has announce their plans for the Annual Dinner. It is scheduled for Thursday October 17, 2019 at Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 1125 Boston-Providence Turnpike (Route 1) Norwood, MA. The keynote speaker will be The Honorable Frank Williams, former Chief Justice of Rhode Island Supreme Court. His topic is titled *Ulysses S. Grant as a Hero*

Tickets are \$45.00 . Check the Olde Colony Civil War Round Table website for ticket information , or contact me and I will forward ticket application info to you. Bob Lytle

bobbylee76@comcast.net

New Bedford Civil War Round Table member turns up another Civil War ancestor.

Member Doug Fogg submitted an article detailing the background of a noted 5th Army Corps nurse, Isabella Fogg. Born in New Brunswick , Maine, she departed that area upon hearing reports of the Army abandoning hundreds if not thousands of wounded soldiers after the Battle of Antietam. She discovered that war is truly hell. She moved about all areas of the Eastern front administering to the sick and wounded soldiers. After the war she helped establish the Maine Soldiers' Relief Agency on "F" Street in Washington D.C. Her story is chronicled in an article written by Brian Swartz for the blog "Maine At War"



Spring /Fall 2019 Speaker/Meeting Schedule

September 24, 2019

John C. Rodrigue

Lawrence and Theresa Salameno Professor

Department of History

Stonehill College

Topic: Either Lincoln's criticism of Meade after Gettysburg or Grant's attempt to cashier Henry Clay Warmath during the Vicksburg campaign.



October 22, 2019

David A. Kelly Jr

Associate Professor, Joint Maritime Operations

Program Manager, Graduate Degree Program

College of Distance Education

U.S. Naval War College

Newport R.I.

Topic: The capture of Confederate diplomates James Mason and John Slidell from the British ship "Trent", an event that had the potential of bringing about war between the United States and Great Britain.



November 19, 2019

Craig L. Symonds

Professor of History Emeritus

U.S. Naval Academy

Chief Historian U.S.S. Monitor Center at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia



SPECIAL SPEAKER ANNOUNCEMENT

Craig L. Symonds will be coming to New Bedford November 19th, 2019 for a speaking engagement at the New Bedford Civil War Round Table.

We are pleased to make the following announcement. Noted historian, author, Professor of History Emeritus at the U. S. Naval Academy, and until recently, Chief Historian of the U.S. Monitor Center at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia, will speak at the New Bedford Civil War Round Table.

He is the author of Lincoln and His Admirals, which won the 2009 Lincoln Prize, the culmination of three decades of study of the Civil War navies and the Union's admiral-in-chief.

He is also the recipient of the Samuel Eliot Morrison Award for Naval Literature.



Craig L. Symonds.

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Five Days in May – 2019
Washington, D.C., by Peter Rioux, New Bedford Civil War Round Table

Once again, over fifty Civil War history enthusiasts traveled together for our annual 5 Days in May Trip, this time to experience the historic sites of our nation's capital. We were led by, once again, our outstanding tour guide, Kate Ramirez Taylor, who organized our tour and directed our 3 day excursion. In addition, she provided us with a wealth of captivating information about each of the sites, enabling us



to become not only enthusiastic historical tourists, but knowledgeable ones as well. In addition, she was able to arrange informative presentations for our group by three historic site guides and a presentation by a notable Civil War historian.

Here are some of the highlights of our tour of Washington, D.C.:
Day 1

Kate Taylor

Smithsonian American History Museum

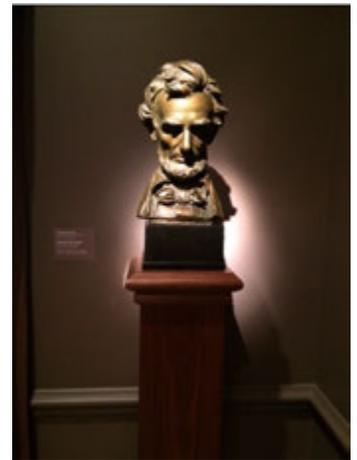
Kate arranged a presentation for our group by Harry Rubenstein, Curator Emeritus of the Museum. His presentation was devoted to the significant museum items that once were owned by Abraham Lincoln and how the museum had come into their possession. We all had an opportunity to closely view such items as Lincoln's black office coat with worn cuffs from his signing of documents that he wore virtually every day, and one of the most expensive items he had ever purchased, his gold pocket watch with the interior inscription etched by his watch maker. Harry also showed us two of Lincoln's face masks reflecting his appearance in 1860 and later in 1865. After Harry's presentation, many of us viewed the museum's exhibit areas, including the American Presidency, which includes Lincoln's frayed and worn top hat, which he wore the night of his assassination, and a drum later used as part of the funeral procession for President Kennedy.



Lincoln's office coat

National Archives

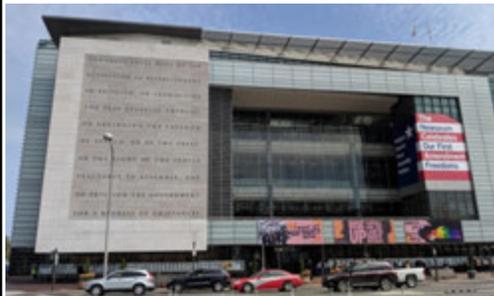
This extensively crowded museum includes within its Charters of Freedom Rotunda historically significant documents, such as the Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Although these glass protected documents have extensively faded, making them virtually unreadable, it was both inspiring and acutely interesting to view them in such close proximity.



National Museum of African American History and Culture



Despite the difficulty to obtain group tickets to tour such a popular museum, Kate was able to arrange our visit to this museum, one of enormous crowds and highly enthusiastic interest. The museum consists of six levels, three of which are underground, the lowest being seventy feet below street level. These three exhibit areas include Slavery and Freedom, devoted to slavery, emancipation, and the Civil War. Tourists may then ascend to the second underground level devoted to the Jim Crow Era and the modern Civil Rights movement with presentations devoted to segregation and the Emmitt Till Memorial. It then ascends further to the continuing Movement with exhibits featuring the African American experience in military service and the events of 1968, including the assassination of Martin Luther King. The upper three levels feature the African American experience in the media, arts, music, visual arts, and culture.



Day 2

The Newseum

This museum, which will soon be relocated to an undetermined site, provides for an interactive experience of news coverage of major historical and current events. The museum includes six floors, which each tourist then descends after first experiencing from an eighty foot exterior observation deck/terrace, a breathtaking and panoramic view along the presidential inaugural route of Washington, ranging from the nation's capital to the east (your left) to an array of the city's historic buildings to the west (your right). Some of the exhibit highlights include a September 11 tribute, including a portion of the fallen World Trade Center and headlines covering this event from newspapers around the world. The Newseum also includes a significantly large fifty foot section of the Berlin Wall, a display of Pulitzer Prize winning photographs, and a tribute to press reporters who lost their lives covering conflict and pursuing investigative work.

Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office

We visited this center which Clara Barton established in 1865 in an effort to successfully locate over twenty-two thousand missing Union veterans. After being officially authorized by Abraham Lincoln one month prior to his death, Barton began her search in Annapolis by establishing a "Roll of Missing Men." She then created her search office in Washington. We toured the various administrative rooms of Barton's office and were provided a very informed presentation by the museum's manager, Ken Burke, who discussed the origin of Barton's office for her search effort and its later restoration.



Smithsonian Portrait Gallery

This museum provides a wonderful display of great American historical art and a magnificent atrium courtyard. Many of us toured such exhibit areas as the Presidential Gallery, which features the original and official presidential portraits of all former presidents, the Civil War Gallery featuring portraits of Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, and Farragut. It also includes American Originals, such as Twain, Whitman, and Poe. It was a great experience to view from within only a few feet, the great original portrait art that has been reproduced and viewed as included in works of history and biography.



Marine Band Parade and Concert

In the evening, we were able to attend the U.S. Marine Concert and Parade located at the oldest U.S. Marine Corps barracks in the United States (established by Jefferson in 1801). We were enthusiastically greeted by various members of the Corps and then treated to a magnificently precise presentation, consisting of over 250 Corps members assigned to two companies, including the Corps' Silent Drill Platoon, Drum and Bugle Corps Band, and Official Color Guard. This presentation, which is conducted on Tuesday and Friday evenings, was also viewed that evening by the Marine Barrack Commandant, the Chief of Naval Operations, Coast Guard Commandant, and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and their wives. After this performance by these outstanding men and women, many of us felt it appropriate to offer a thanks for the honor and sacrifice of their service and a prayer for their continuing safety.



Day 3

Soldiers Home Cemetery

We started our final tour day by visiting the Soldiers Home Cemetery (also the home of Lincoln's vacation retreat) where over 14,000 Union, World I and II soldiers are buried among the sixteen acre site. Al Smith, our tour director, and Charlie Lewis, a former U.S. Army Sergeant in our tour group, conducted a brief service as we placed a wreath at the tomb of General John Logan. He served in command positions during the Battle of Atlanta and led the Army of Tennessee. He later spearheaded the creation of Memorial Day, originally named Decoration Day.



National Building Museum

This building was constructed between 1882-1887 and creatively designed by Union Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs. The building was originally the headquarters of the Pension Bureau (currently the Veterans Affairs Department). We enjoyed the service of an excellent museum host who guided us and discussed the building's unique exterior features. The building was constructed with fifteen and one half million bricks, the largest brick building at the time. The exterior frieze depicts the Union forces around the complete building perimeter. The interior features a 150 foot high Great Hall used for ten Presidential Inaugural Balls, and Corinthian columns that are 75 feet high.

Gadsby's Tavern

We traveled to historic Old Town in Alexandria for a wonderful dinner at Gadsby's Tavern, which had been the center of Washington's political and social life in the late Eighteenth and early Nineteenth Centuries. Guests have included George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson, who hosted an inaugural dinner. Our after dinner speaker was Michael Kaufman, author of the highly acclaimed history of the Lincoln assassination, American Brutus.



Lincoln Memorial

We culminated our Washington tour on Saturday evening with a memorable trip to the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Memorial. These memorials are extensively visited during the daylight hours, yet they are so evocative when viewed in the dramatic illumination of the evening darkness. As you leave the Lincoln Memorial, you are left with a vivid image – Lincoln affixing his watchful eyes and protective glare upon a city, a nation, and a people, while being surrounded at the base of his statue by hundreds of visitors gathering to both honor him and to express a nation's appreciation for his sacrifice and the continuing value of his life.