

THE FLAGBEARER

Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table New Bedford, Massachusetts June 2020



New Bedford Civil War Round Table Memorial Day Service 2020



The New Bedford Civil War Round Table remembered our veterans with a brief but appropriate ceremony at the Rural Cemetery. It was posted to our Facebook page and is available for you to view. Logan's Order Number 11 was read and the Gettysburg Address was delivered. Participating in this ceremony was Mark Mello, Martin Flinn, Jack Richer, Jack Byrnes, Larry Roy, and Peter Rioux. Particularly moving was Peter Rioux's reading from Bruce Catton's final chapter in his book on Gettysburg. The City of New Bedford set up the Cemetery with flags at the headstones, and Mother Nature co-operated with excellent weather. And as always



Larry Roy's Battle Hymn of the Republic reminded us of year's gone by when we first remembered hearing that stirring music. What was missing of course, was you, because of the Covid-19 guidelines preventing the gathering of large crowds.



...RLL



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Mark Mello— President

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Message from the President

Dear Friends,

As the weather warms up and we begin to march towards summer, I hope you are all healthy and well. Still being in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to adapt to an ever changing reality. Recently board members convened to discuss our future as a group and how to address growing concerns about the future. We will continue to discuss best practices and our next steps. Fortunately, we now enter the summer. Hopefully conditions will continue to improve so we can return to semi-normalcy by the Fall.

Even though we have been apart now for 3 months, we continue our mission to preserve the memory of those who “gave the last full measure of devotion” on numerous battlefields during the American Civil War. Recently, several board members gathered for an impromptu, condensed, and socially-distant version of our annual Memorial Day Service in Rural Cemetery. It was not the same without the membership present, but I trust we paid a fitting homage to the memory of those brave soldiers. I would like to thank board members Martin Flynn, Bob Lytle, Peter Rioux, Jack Richer, Larry Roy, and member Jack Byrnes for their participation. I would also like to thank the City of New Bedford for their support providing flags at the graves and caring for the landscaping. Finally, a very special thanks to Elizabeth Fournier from Evelyn Innovates for the filming and production of the video. If you have not had a chance to see the ceremony, it can be viewed on our Facebook page.

As we continue to move forward as a group, the Board has decided to write a “Statement of Policies and Provisions” which would formalize our procedures as a group. The Board appointed Peter Rioux as the Director of this project. If you have any suggestions or would like to provide input for this document, please reach out to Peter directly at peter.rioux@gmail.com

Finally, I would like to wish all of you a safe and happy summer. I know that the ending of this year’s speaker season was disappointing for many, but we look forward to returning to a top-notch lineup of speakers this Fall. In the meantime, stay safe, stay healthy, and we look forward to seeing you again really soon!

Your obedient servant,

Mark Mello, President, The New Bedford Civil War Round Table



FALL 2020 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

To properly mark the occasion of Memorial Day for 2020, the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, recommended that each of us search our local cemetery and locate a Civil War veteran headstone that has been long forgotten. A friend, who has since passed on, came to me several years ago and pointed out a headstone at the South Dartmouth Cemetery that did have a Civil War veteran, Captain Henry H. Crapo, 5th Ohio Cav. The local flagging group never places a flag here. So, this year it received a flag. We salute Captain Henry Crapo, 5th Ohio Cavalry.



A note from our 2020 Book Award recipient.....

...Dear New Bedford Civil War Round Table,
Thank you so much for bestowing upon me the honor of receiving your scholarship award. The funds will ease my transition into college at Cornell University. I really appreciate your generosity and commitment to today's youth!

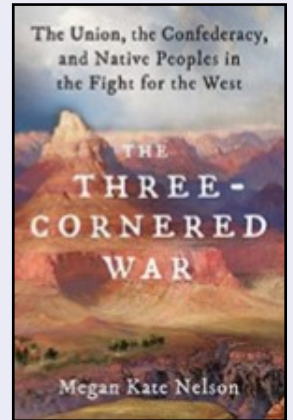
Gratefully,
Rachel Perry



September 22, 2020

Dr. Megan Kate Nelson

Author and Historian. Introduction of her latest book and a return visit to our Round Table. Her third book, "Three Cornered War", was recently published. Our Round Table is pleased to welcome her back to New Bedford.



October 27, 2020

David A. Kelly Jr. Ph. D

Associate Professor, Joint Military Operations Program Manager, Graduate Degree Education College of Distance Education U.S. Naval War College Newport, R.I.

Subject: "The Sultana Tragedy" November 17, 2020



Paul R. Prentiss, CM

Retired Navy Captain, Chief Scientist of a national science and technology company, and currently a Trustee of the Old Baldy Civil War Civil War Round Table, Philadelphia.

Subject: "Damn the Torpedoes! Full Steam ahead. Admiral David Farragut and the Battle of Mobile Bay August 5, 1864"



...From the FilesThe Civil War Summer of 1861

...June 3 Minor skirmishes begin in the East; northern Virginia and western Virginia. Jefferson Davis is serenaded in Richmond. The "Little Giant" Stephan A. Douglas is dead. The White House is draped in black.

...June 8 Tennessee voters approve succession. The Virginia forces under the command of Robert E. Lee are transferred to the Confederate States. Lee is out of a job, but remains an adviser to Davis. Lincoln and Sec. of War Cameron approve the setting up of the United States Sanitary Commission to look after the health and comfort of the Federal troops.

...June 11 Delegates representing pro-Union element in Virginia met at Wheeling to organize a pro-Union government that eventually became the state of West Virginia

...June 15 Confederates under Joseph E. Johnston evacuated Harper's Ferry, falling back in the Shenandoah Valley to Bunker Hill, north of Winchester.

...June 17 At Washington balloonist Prof. Thaddeus S.C. Lowe and others ascended a short distance in the air to demonstrate the observation usefulness of balloons. Connected to the War Dept by a telegraph wire, Prof. Lowe communicated with the President. The government of Spain proclaimed its neutrality, but recognized the Confederacy as a belligerent, following the standard pattern of European powers.

...June 24 Pres. Lincoln showed his interest in military equipment by watching experiments with rifled cannon and "Coffee Mill", an early rapid-firing weapon.

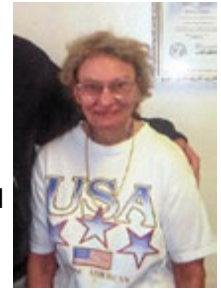
...July 4 The war is still young. A special Cabinet meeting is held with leading generals to discuss future action , as demanded by the public. Many skirmishes in Missouri. Also, a special session of Congress is held , dealing with war measures. Lincoln suspends writ of habeas corpus.

...July 5 Engagement at Carthage, Missouri. Engagement at Rich Mountain in Western Virginia. The U.S. Senate expels senators from Virginia, N. Carolina, Arkansas, Texas, and 1 from Tennessee

...July 21 Battle of First Bull Run or Manassas, Virginia. At Washington, Lincoln heard from eye witnesses reporting the stampede and spent the night calmly listening to the news.

... Last person to receive a Civil War pension dies...

...June 4, 2020 Irene Triplett, the last person to receive a U.S. Civil War pension, has died at the age of 90. Triplett's father, Mose Triplett, began fighting in the war for the Confederacy but defected to the North in 1863. His decision earned his daughter, Irene, the product of a late-in-life marriage to a woman who was 50 years his junior, a pension of \$73.13 a month from the Department of Veteran Affairs. She died from complications following a surgery for injuries from a fall. This, according to the Wilkesboro, N.C. nursing home where she lived.



...Who was the last survivor of the Union Army?

The answer is Albert Woolson, the last survivor of the Grand Army of the Republic. He was born on February 11, 1850 (or maybe 1847) .His father, Willard Woolson, died of his wounds from the Battle of Shiloh. Albert enlisted in Co. C 1st Minnesota Heavy Artillery as a drummer boy at the age of 17. After the war he lived the rest of his life in Minnesota. He had eight children, was twice widowed, was a carpenter and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Woolson became the senior vice commander in chief of the GAR in 1953. He died on August 2, 1956 at the age of 102. After his death the Grand Army of the Republic was dissolved.



...Civil War definitions

Antebellum— In general speech this term designates the period between 1812 and 1860. Strictly speaking, the Latin phrase means "before the war". And could be applied to any prewar period. Today, the term is used to designate the prewar South.

Copperheads—A label for Northerners who opposed the war and occasionally worked to undermine the war effort.

Enfilade— To fire upon the length rather than the face of the enemy position; enfilading an enemy allows a varying range of fire to find targets while minimizing the amount of fire an enemy can return.