

# THE FLAGBEARER

## Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table New Bedford, Massachusetts June 22, 2021, 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Meeting

### This issue of the Flagbearer

..... The return of Kate Taylor as Mary Todd Lincoln is the presentation for June 22

...Kate Taylor has remarried. Her new married name is Kate Jones. Congratulations Kate.

...New speaker addition for Nov, Mr Codie Eash, Operations Manager at the Gettysburg Seminary Ridge Museum and Education Center

...Our September speaker will be James A. Hessler, well known author and historian

...In October, Ronald S. Codrington joins us with a talk on his book series, "Faces of the Civil War"

...Harriet Tubman -Combahee Raid

...Boston Corbett story- Booth

...The Great Appalachian Valley story

...Timeline history

...Don't forget to follow our Facebook page, and "like" us

...Please check our website for any Round Table updates

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**Bob Lytle**—Flagbearer, Programs, and Zoom set up

Cell # 508-542-7630

bobbylee76@comcast.net

### Special June 22, 2021 Program Announcement

Living historian, Kate Taylor of Mary Surratt fame will return to the New Bedford Civil War Round Table, via Zoom, on June 22, 2021. Most of you remember Kate's wonderful performance at the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park as "Mary Surratt; Guilty, or Not Guilty" as a Co-conspirator in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Our Round Table, with the support of several New England based Round Tables and private donations, brought Kate to New Bedford. We hoped for an attendance of 50 at the meeting and were surprised when approximately 100 guests turned out for an entertaining evening.



Kate Taylor is now Kate Jones

On June 22, 2021, Kate Taylor returns as Mary Todd Lincoln. This will be a Zoom meeting

This performance is free and open to all—tell your friends about this great opportunity to become familiar with the New Bedford Civil War Round Table.

Need a Zoom invite? Email Bob Lytle at [bobbylee76@comcast.net](mailto:bobbylee76@comcast.net)



Kate Taylor is now Kate Jones. She recently remarried. Congratulations to Kate and Matt Jones. Kate recently landed a role in "Hamlet" with The Newtowne Players for an August 12-21 run.



## Raid on Combahee Ferry

Harriet Tubman, born Araminta "Minty" Ross was an American abolitionist and political activist. (March 1822–March 10, 1913). Born into slavery, Tubman escaped and subsequently made some 13 missions to rescue approximately 70 enslaved people, including family and friends, using the Underground Railroad. During the Civil War, she served as an armed scout and spy for the Union Army.

Born enslaved in Dorchester, Maryland, Tubman was beaten and whipped by various masters as a child. In 1849 she escaped to Philadelphia, only to return to Maryland to bring out family and friends. Traveling by night Tubman a.k.a. "Moses" never lost a passenger. Tubman met John Brown in 1858 and helped him plan and recruit supporters for his 1859 raid in Harpers Ferry.

When the Civil War began Tubman worked for the Union Army, first as a cook and nurse, and then as an armed scout. The first woman to lead an armed expedition in the war, she guided the raid at Combahee Ferry, which liberated more than 750 enslaved people.

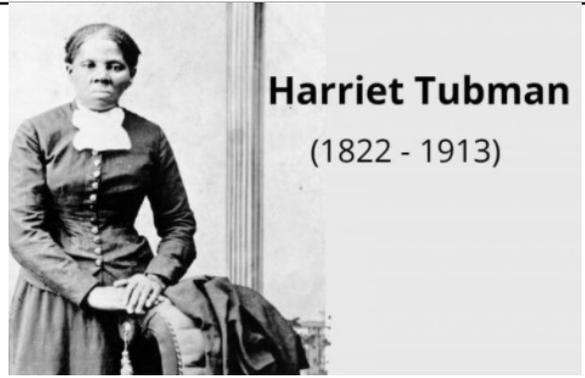


This was a military expedition conducted

June 1 and June 2 by elements of the Union Army along the Combahee River. Tubman led 150 soldiers of the 54th Mass Inf Reg, liberating enslaved people on plantations along the river. This was a series of raids held to deny food and crops to the Confederate Army. These raids were led by Col. James Montgomery, a guerilla fighter from Kansas, a Jayhawker. If you saw the movie, *Glory*, you know what kind of a leader he was. He brought this style of warfare to the Lowcountry of South Carolina, along with the 2nd South Carolina Infantry, made up of former slaves.



On the evening of June 1, three ships left Beaufort heading for



**Harriet Tubman**  
(1822 - 1913)

the Combahee River, transporting 300 men from the 2nd South Carolina, and the 3rd Rhode Island Heavy Artillery. Harriet Tubman accompanied the troops.

They destroyed houses, plantations, bridges, mills, grain, rice, cotton, and took supplies along the way. The Confederates had pulled many of their troops out of the area for the summer due to it being the season for malaria, smallpox, and typhoid fever. The value of Montgomery's raid was thought to be in the millions of dollars.

During the Combahee Raid it was estimated that 750 enslaved people were brought back to Beaufort. They were later transported to a resettlement camp on St. Helena Island. Harriet Tubman played a key role in this raid. This raid was her inspiration, it originated with her, she led it, and it created a great sensation in the northern papers.

In 2006 the South Carolina Legislature, after learning of the location of the raid on the river, authorized the placement of the signage, and named the bridge across the river on Hwy 17, the Harriet Tubman Bridge.—RLL



Harriet Tubman and the Combahee River ...

The Harriet Tubman monument in Beaufort, SC



Credit to Wikipedia

## Zab Adams, Boston Corbett, and John Wilkes Booth

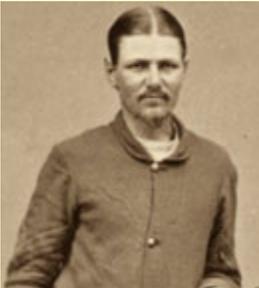
by Joe DiPoli, Olde Colony Civil War Round Table

History has many twists and turns and unexpected coincidences. This story from the Civil War is one of my favorites. A doctor named Zab Adams was the newly appointed medical director of Taunton State Hospital in 1854. Shortly after Zab's father died, Zab returned to Boston to take over his father's practice. One late night, Zab was called to tend to a man who had mutilated himself with a pair of scissors.



Zab Adams

That man was Boston Corbett who was a hatter. (Hatters ingested a lot of mercury which leads to the name Mad as a hatter). Boston who found religion in Boston had read a passage that instructed him to cut out any body part that caused him to sin. In Corbett's case a hooker had teased him, and Corbett felt that he was guilty of sinning through his genitals.

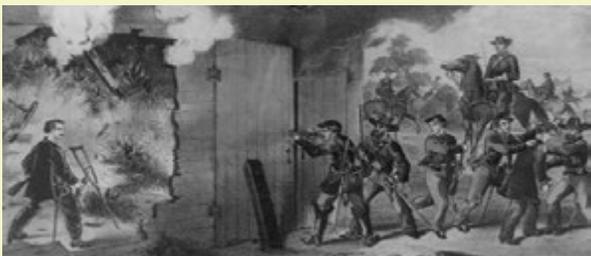


Bleeding and infection followed and thus Zab was called out to save him from bleeding to death.

Boston served apparently with distinction and was promoted to sergeant. He was a cavalryman and was part of the party that was sent out to capture John Wilkes Booth (ALIVE) and return him to trial where he might join the

other con-

spirators on the scaffold. Corbett was able to get a good bead on Booth who by then was trapped in the burning tobacco barn. Despite having disobeyed orders, he shared the bounty and was hailed as a hero by then secretary of war Edwin McMaster Stanton. Corbett lives on into the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century dying in the western prairie where a marker still marks his residence. Adams survives the war and goes on to practice medicine in Framingham where he was a respected member of the community. Adams dies from a fall from a dam in 1902



## News from the New Bedford Civil War Round Table

...Al Smith at the Greater Boston Civil War Round Table has announced that he is resuming his "5 Days in May" trip in 2022. In May of 2022, Al will lead a tour of the Battlefields of the Shenandoah Valley.

...By the way, David Smith, Al's brother, contracted Covid 19 after having had his two shots, ended up in intensive care at the hospital, and then was transferred to rehab and we hope by the time you read this, he is back home. Also, Al and his other brother, Paul, had both shots, but tested positive for Covid in late May. What a life.

**The Zoom sessions will continue through November. We have excellent speakers lined up. We average 30 participants on the Zoom calls. Our membership has grown to 53. Thank you for your support.**

...We will take July and August off, - no Flagbearer.

...Our 'Friend of the Round Table', Col. Kevin J. Weddle, Ph.D., Professor of Military Theory and Strategy at the U,S, Army War College, in Carlisle, PA, has a new book published by Oxford University Press; "The Compleat Victory" Saratoga and The American Revolution. Kevin has two presentations to our Round Table in the past three years. He recently appeared on CSpan3 Book and discussed the Saratoga campaign. **If there was sufficient interest I am sure he would be open to a Zoom meeting this summer with the New Bedford Civil War Round Table. While not Civil War material , it is nonetheless very interesting history. He is a great presenter. Is there interest from you?**



...The 2021-2022 Membership Dues and new member application is published in this issue of the Flagbearer. It is that time of the year. It is dues time- July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Please take time soon and send in your dues payment. Please note your Board of Directors voted to keep the rates lowered for the year due to Covid as we are not meeting in-person.

...The Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum—the place we meet in Ft Taber Park , South End of New Bedford, is looking for volunteer help. The Museum is open from 1:00 to 4:00 Weds thru Sunday. It does lack sufficient volunteers to open Monday and Tuesday. Three volunteers are needed each day. You would be paired with an experienced volunteer. You need not have served in the Military. Interested? Call Bob Lytle at 508-542-7630. I will answer any questions you may have.

**Message from Mark Mello, President, The New Bedford Civil War Round Table**

Dear Friends,

We have reached the end of another season, and this year has been unlike any other. After not being able to finish our season last year, we were forced to move all of our meetings to the virtual world. Thanks to Zoom, we were able to still come together as a group to do what we all love to do – learn and discuss the American Civil War. Although this was not ideal, I believe our meetings were a tremendous success. We averaged 20 – 30 people on most of our calls, and thanks to the hard work of Bob Lytle, we continued to enjoy a top-notch lineup of speakers.

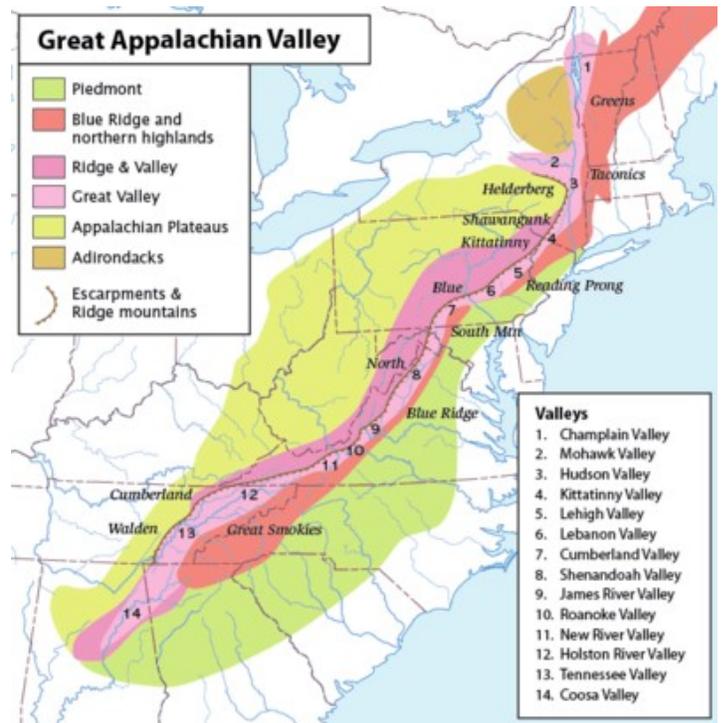
This past year, we were also able to rewrite the group’s bylaws. Peter Rioux was a tremendous help with this. I want to personally thank Peter for all of his hard work on this project. The Board of Directors will be discussing what the best way to present the new bylaws to the group for a vote will be. There will be more on this to come over the next few weeks.

With more people being vaccinated and restrictions being lifted, we hope for a return to some normalcy by the fall. In the meantime, enjoy the nice weather and stay safe. As always, do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Your obedient servant,

Mark Mello  
 President  
 New Bedford Civil War Round Table

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*If you are like me, you can get easily confused about the location of the many “Valleys” referenced in your Civil War reading. For example, Lee’s approach to Gettysburg late June 1863 using the Shenandoah and Cumberland Valleys . As Ewell approaches Harrisburg you can see the PR value in being able to say that he crossed the Susquehanna River gap , or not.*

*Just a few words of explanation are due. The “Great Valley” or “The Great Appalachian Valley” as it is also known is one of the major landforms in Northern America. This valley stretches 1,200 miles, from Quebec to Alabama, and was a critical route of travel for hundreds of years. There is the northern section that includes the Champlain Valley around Lake Champlain, the Hudson River Valley, the Kittatinny Valley, Lebanon Valley, and Cumberland Valley. Mountains bound both sides, - such as the Green Mountains, and near Harrisburg, South Mountain.*

*In the south, the Great Valley is bounded by the Blue Ridge in the east, and extends into the Shenandoah Valley, Roanoke Valley, and on down into Tennessee through the Great Smoky Mountains. Your ancestors may have used these travel routes or their branches going west, through the many gaps, such as the Cumberland Gap.*

*From these early beginnings, major roads were developed such as the Great Wagon Road that began in Philadelphia, or in the Shenandoah, the Valley Pike ( Lee’s route and the route made famous by Stonewall Jackson). The Wilderness Road branched off from the Great Wagon Road at Roanoke and turned west through the Cumberland gap. The Carolina Road branched off here also and went South.*

*Space is limited here but armies followed these routes via their engineering staff, mostly trained at West Point.*

## THE DESTRUCTION OF THE STEAMER BOSTON

On May 23-24, 1864, Union forces attempted to destroy a railroad trestle bridge across the Ashepool River in South Carolina. This railroad carried vital supplies between Charleston and Savanna. These river inlets were ideal for bringing in supplies through the Union blockade. Soldiers from the 34th U.S.C.T. were carried up the Ashepool on the steamer *Boston*. The boat was grounded on an oyster bed 300 yds in front of a Confederate position at Chapman's Fort. C.S.A. artillery in the early morning hours would lob 200 shells into the *Boston*.



Using one small rowboat, Lt. George Brush of the 34th U.S.C.T. made multiple trips under fire to ferry 400 members of his command to safety. 13 were killed. After the *Boston* was evacuated it was set afire.

LT. Brush had made a call for volunteers to man the rowboat. Four members of Company B, Mass. 4th Cavalry, answered the call and repeatedly rowed the boat trip after trip under fire, ferrying the troops to safety.

Three of Lt. Brush's volunteers were best friends, all from the New Bedford area. They were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for their actions that day in 1864,

**William Downey** ( 1832-June 30, 1909) Born in Limerick Ireland. Mustered out in June 1865. Buried at St. Mary's Cemetery in New Bedford.

**John Duffy** ( 1836-August 21, 1923) Buried at Oak Grove Cemetery, New Bedford

**David L. Gifford** (1844-Jan 13, 1904) Buried at South Dartmouth Cemetery, South Dartmouth.



David Gifford

You might be interested to know that the family of William Downey donated his Medal of Honor and other interesting artifacts and papers to the Ft Taber~Ft Rodman Military Museum where they are on display near the front entrance. The Museum is open from 1 to 4, Weds thru Sunday.

The Medal of Honor is the nation's highest military award for bravery. It is awarded by the President in the name of Congress. Since it was first presented in 1863, the medal has been awarded just over 3,500 times. Nineteen recipients have been awarded the medal twice.

The Museum at Ft Taber Park follows very precise Federal guidelines on how the Medal is displayed, under bulletproof glass, in a locked case, with fully alarmed protection, and never is an admission fee permitted to view the Medal.

For those readers of The Flagbearer who are new to the study of the American Civil War, you may wonder where on the internet you might find reliable historical information.

Here are a few websites worth your time.

On Facebook

- 763 Leadership Group
- Garry Adelman's Civil War Page
- American Battlefield Trust
- Gettysburg Lessons
- The Tattooed Historian

On You Tube

- Chicago Civil War Round Table Archives
- Emerging Civil War
- Any David Blight lecture
- Gettysburg Winter Lecture Series

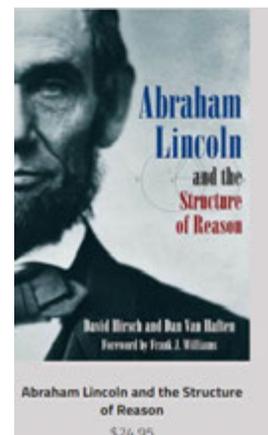
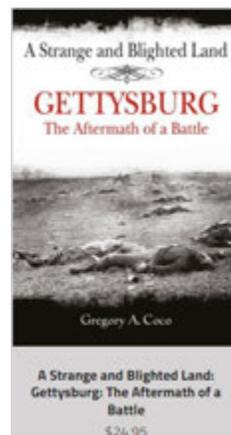
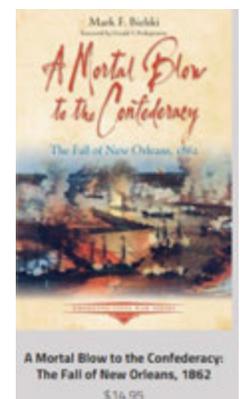
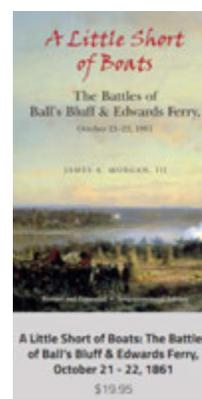
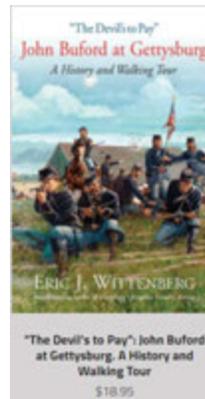
On most podcast sites

- Battle of Gettysburg with Jim Hessler
- Any David Blight lecture

Hope this augments your studies

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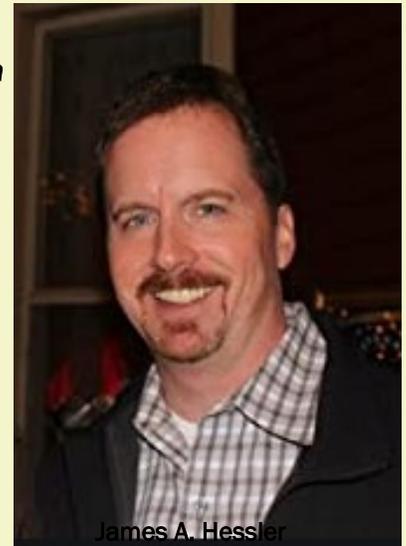
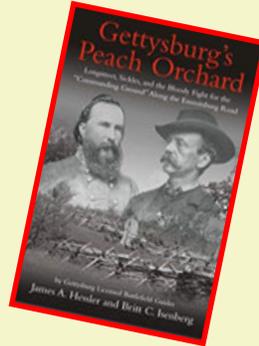
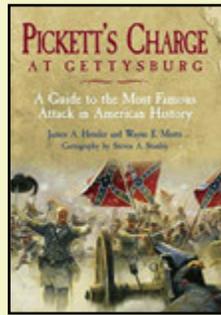
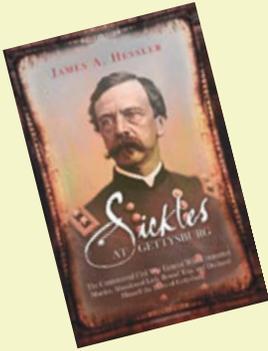
## NEW BOOKS TO CONSIDER



**New speaker addition at The New Bedford Civil War Round Table**

**September 28, 2021**

**Historian, author, and guide—James A. Hessler will be with us Sept 28, via Zoom. His topic; Gettysburg's Peach Orchard**



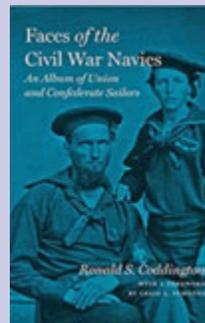
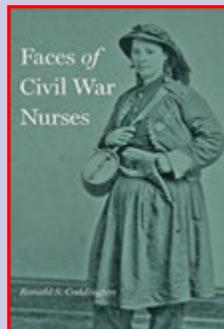
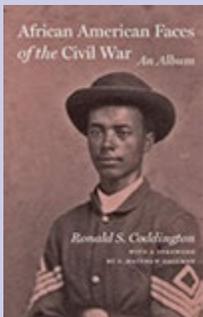
James A. Hessler

James Hessler has been a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park since 2003. His book on Sickles was awarded the prestigious Bachelder Coddington Award. He co-authored with Licensed Battlefield Guide, Wayne Motts, and maps by Civil War Trust cartographer Steve Stanley, "Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg". Jim has written a number of articles for publication, including "Gettysburg Magazine" and America's Civil War. He was one of the primary content designers for, and appeared in, the Civil War Trust's mobile Gettysburg application. He is also a member of Little Bighorn Associates and Custer Battlefield Memorial Association.

**Mark your calendar; The New Bedford Civil War Round Table will showcase yet another great speaker on October 26, 2021**

**Introducing Ron Coddington**

**Historian, author, and guide**



Ronald S. Coddington

**His topic: Faces of Civil War Nurses**

While other kids in his Middlesex, N.J. neighborhood collected baseball cards, 14-year-old Ronald S. Coddington browsed flea markets looking for old photographs. Collecting historic images would become his lifelong pursuit. He began to write about the lives of identified Civil War Soldiers in his collection in 2001. Many are included in his books, "Faces of the Civil War," "Faces of the Confederacy," and "African American Faces of the Civil War". Ron is a regular contributor to the New York Times series Disunion, and a columnist for the Civil War Times.

**ATTENTION—ADDED TO OUR FALL 2021 SPEAKER SERIES**

*The New Bedford Civil War Round Table presents:*

**Mr. Codie Eash, Operations Manager**

*Seminary Ridge Museum and Education Center  
Gettysburg, PA*

*Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 7:00 P.M.*

**Written in Ink and Marked with Blood:  
Frederick Douglass's Gettysburg Address**



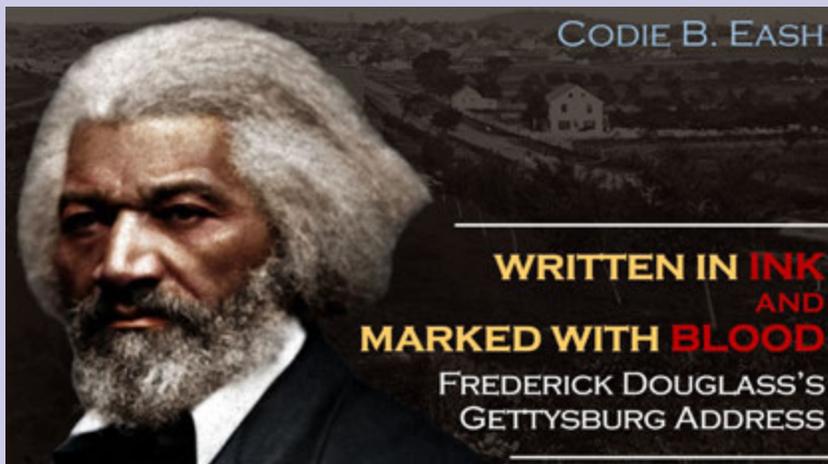
*Mr. Codie Eash*

*On January 25, 1869, Frederick Douglass visited Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the site of the Civil War's costliest engagement. There, the formerly enslaved and self-emancipated activist, author, and lecturer delivered a speech in which he reflected upon the words spoken and deeds done on battlefields across the country during the "Abolition War" (as Douglass called it) from 1861-1865 and the Reconstruction that followed. Through written word and commanding oratory, he brought meaning to the bloodletting of fallen United States soldiers and the martyred Abraham Lincoln, and placed the racial and political results of the war—constructive as well as destructive—within the context of world history. Join Codie Eash for this discussion of the motivations for Douglass's address, how it was received by those who heard it, and what it means in our collective memory today.*

*Codie Eash serves as Operations Manager at Seminary Ridge Museum and Education Center in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and is a 2014 graduate of Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, where he earned a bachelor degree in*

*communication/journalism and held a minor in history.*

*Codie regularly lectures for National Park Service sites, historical societies, Civil War roundtables, and educational groups. He has published articles and essays in local newspapers, regional magazines, and national history journals. Codie contributes to the blog "Pennsylvania in the Civil War"; writes book reviews for "Civil War Monitor" magazine; serves as a co-host on "Battles and Banter," a military history podcast; and maintains the Facebook page "Codie Eash - Writer and Historian," which primarily focuses on the Civil War era.*



**TIMELINE—JUNE 1862**

Summer, and the high days of campaigning are upon the armies and the people. Jackson had been victorious in the Shenandoah, however, Richmond was still in danger.

...June 1 Battle of Fair Oakes concludes. McClellan is just outside Richmond. Joseph E. Johnston is wounded. Robert E. Lee takes over.

...June 3 Evacuation of Fort Pillow Tennessee. Federal forces close in on Memphis. Lincoln appoints diplomatic representatives to the nations Haiti and Liberia, a first.

...June 7 The Mayor of Memphis surrenders the city. In New Orleans, Gen. Ben Butler orders the hanging of William B. Mumford for the offence of tearing down and destroying the United States flag, This event raised bitter recriminations in Richmond.

...June 9 Battles of Cross Keys and Port Republic, Virginia. "Stonewall" Jackson's brilliant Shenandoah campaign. From March 22 to June 25, Jackson in 48 marching days, covered 676 miles and fought 5 battles.

...June 12 JEB Stuart's famous ride around McClellan. This is his 4 day reconnaissance in force.

...June 17 General John Pope is brought east to command the new Army of Virginia. The Confederates elevate General Braxton Bragg to succeed General Beauregard

...June 19 In Washington, Lincoln signed into law a measure prohibiting slavery in the territories of the United States

...June 25 What becomes known as the "Seven Days' Campaign" begins.

...June 26 Battle Mechanicsville begins. McClellan complains that Lincoln not sending him all the men requested. Lincoln pained by these constant complaints from McClellan.

...June 28 McClellan defeated at Gaines' Mill. Blames Lincoln. Sends Lincoln a telegram that War Department staff deletes two sentences as unfit for Lincoln's eyes. He learns of it anyway.

...June 30 Battle of Frayer's Farm or White Oak Swamp near Richmond. McClellan draws his lines in around Malvern Hill



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**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**