

June 2023

# THE FLAGBEARER

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Bob Macfarlane-Board of Directors Emeritus

Website by Following Sea Design

Bob Lytle-Flagbearer

bobbylee76@comcast.net

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

June 27, 2023 6:00 P.M.

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

No charge for attending meeting, ample well lit parking, bring a guest

### THE NEW BEDFORD CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE ANNUAL JUNE PICNIC



TUESDAY JUNE 27, 2023 6:00 P.M.

LOW TIDE YACHT CLUB BUILDING

1000 RODNEY FRENCH BLVD

FORT TABER PARK, NEW BEDFORD

What should you bring?

A dessert to share with all ( please provide paper plates, serving utensils, napkins if needed)

Cost?

\$20.00 per person donation at the door

Guests are welcome

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This will be a catered event, - hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, tossed salad, corn on the cob, watermelon, chips, and drinks

\*\*\*\*\*  
There will be a short business meeting: a vote on a new slate of officers for the 2023-2024 season

The Joseph Langlois Book Award recipients will be special guests

Larry Roy will have music for us to enjoy

Peter Rioux will once again conduct a table vs. table Civil War Trivia Pursuit contest.



## NEWS FROM THE NEW BEDFORD CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

We sincerely hope you will consider attending the June catered picnic at the Low Tide Yacht Club. It is a great social gathering of our Civil War Round Table. And who would not want to miss Peter Rioux's Civil War trivia contest. The contest participants are Jack Richer on one side of the kiosk and the rest of the Round Table members on the other side.

Patrick Donovan, President of the Varnum Armory Museum was our May speaker. His stories of Civil War soldiers and the artifacts in the Armory Museum were well received by our members. Nicely done Patrick.



Rev. Bob, Bruce, and Bob L.

\*\*\*\*\*

We welcomed back Rev Bob Macfarlane, a.k.a. General Joshua Chamberlain, to our May meeting. Bob resides in Chambersburg PA. He was visiting in our area and reached out to us just before the meeting. Glad he could attend the Round Table meeting. He connected that night with the other founding board member of this Round Table, Bruce Baggarly. Wonderful to see old friends.

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Once again we urge you to follow us on Facebook and at our website. When you miss a meeting, you can find a video of that meeting on our Facebook Channel. And please tell me in advance if your email address will change. We don't you to miss out on the excitement found at the New Bedford Civil War Round Table. Bob L.

## THE ROUND TABLE ANNOUNCES THE JOSEPH E. LANGLOIS BOOK AWARDS FOR 2023

The New Bedford Civil War Round Table Book Award Committee is please to announce that we have selected two outstanding graduating high school seniors as recipients our the Joseph E. Langlois Book Award for 2023.

Eoin Gallagher is graduating from Appononquet Regional High School. He ranks 1st in his class and his activities include Honor Society, President of the Environmental Club, Student Council, Captain of the lacrosse team, Athletic Boosters, Pan Mass Challenge, food pantry, and Gifts to Give. He will attend UMASS Amherst majoring in Biochemistry.



Julia Downey ranks near the top of her class.at Bishop Stang High School. Her activities include vice president of the Honor Society, treasurer of the Student Council, vice president of the Diversity Council, captain of the debate team, math club, campus ministry, soccer, and lacrosse teams., captain of the track and cross country teams, and vice president of the Business Club. She will attend the University of Notre Dame majoring in International Studies and Economics.

We extend our congratulations to Eoin and Julia and wish them every success as they pursue their educational and careers.

The Joseph E. Langlois Book Award Committee,  
Peter Rioux and Jack Richer



On July 13th at 6:00 p.m., The New Bedford Preservation Society is conducting a walking tour featuring "New Bedford in the Civil War".



The tour is one of several events in the Society's Summer Walking Tour Series. This event is made possible by the support of the New Bedford Cultural Council.

Please gather at the Custom House Square, New Bedford Whaling National Park. For additional information, check their website, <http://nbpreservationsociety.org/>

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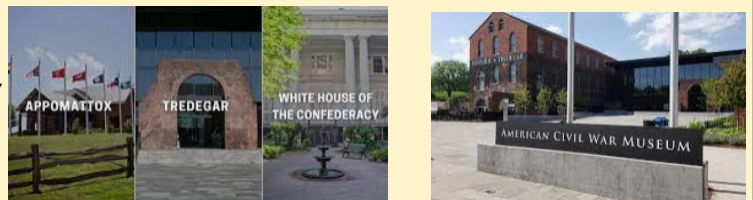


The Civil War Round Table Congress will meet this August 25-26-27 in Gettysburg. The theme of this conference for the member Round Tables is "Membership Expansion and Retention." Activities begin with an opening night reception at the Lutheran Seminary on Seminary Ridge. All conference programs will be held in the newly opened Adams County Historical Society Museum.

The Saturday evening dinner will be held in the spectacular Gettysburg National Park Service Visitor Center. Sunday will feature a private tour of the Spangler Farm.

If interested, go to the CWRT website and register.

Are you planning a trip this summer into the Virginia Civil War history region? Here is a stop along the way that may interest you. The American Civil War Museum encompasses three sites; The American Civil War Museum at Historic Tredegar, The White House of the Confederacy, and The American Civil War Museum at Appomattox. Make Richmond a home base for these three Museums. All are newly updated, professionally curated, and well worth your time.



At our June meeting we will vote on a new slate of officers for the 2023-2024 Round Table season. Are you willing to lend a hand to the Board of Directors? Email or call Bob Lytle or Mark Mello, let us discuss how your volunteer effort might help grow and expand the New Bedford Civil War Round Table. We need your help if you are willing.

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!**

One of our long time members sent me several interesting trivia lines that, while some are not Civil War related, I thought you might find them interesting.

**Iron Clad Contract:** This came about from the ironclad ships of the Civil War. It meant something so strong it could not be broken.

**Ship State Rooms:** Travelling by steamboat was considered the height of comfort. Passenger cabins on the boats were not numbered. Instead they were named after states. To this day cabins are called staterooms.

**A Shot of Whiskey:** In the old west a .45 cartridge for a six gun cost 12 cents, so did a glass of whiskey. If a cow-hand was low on cash he would often give a bartender a cartridge in exchange for a drink. This became a “shot” of whiskey.

**Over a barrel:** In the days before CPR, a drowning victim would be placed face down over a barrel and the barrel rolled back and forth in an effort to empty the lungs of water. It was rarely effective. If you were over a barrel you were in deep trouble.

Credit to Tom Hesketh

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**Why do we study history?**

- #1 To help us develop judgement in worldly affairs by understanding the past behavior of people.
- #2 To help us understand change and how the community, nation and world we live in came to be.
- #3 To help us develop essential skills for good citizenship
- #4 To help us develop essential thinking skills.
- #5 To inspire us

Credit to unknown

\*\*\*\*\*

**How many military actions were there in the Civil War?**

One source says 10,455. They are as follows

29 campaigns	28 sieges	76 battles	64 raids
310 engagements	727 expeditions	45 combats	252 reconnaissances
1036 actions	434 scouts	29 assaults	639 affairs
6337 skirmishes	82 occupations	299 operations	79 captures

Credit: The Civil War Day-By-Day This reads like someone had too much time on their hands

This is our last Flagbearer for the summer, as we take time off. The Flagbearer will return in September with a great lineup of speakers.

If you wish to write an article for publication in the September Flagbearer, send it to Bob Lytle,

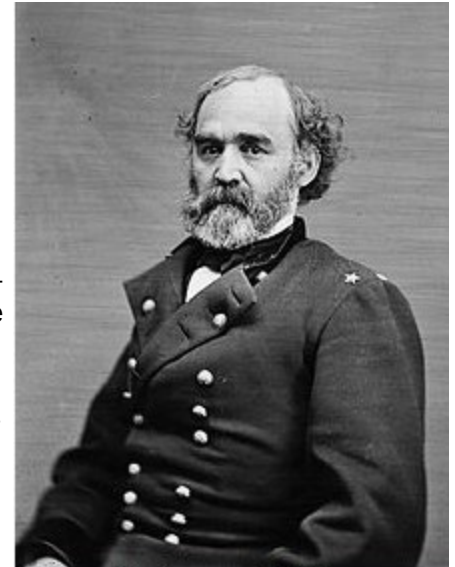
bobbylee76@comcast.net



Peter Rioux

## Montgomery Meigs The Quartermaster, by Peter Rioux

With the inscription on his tombstone - "Soldier, scientist, patriot," this simple expression fully captures the extensive contribution that General Montgomery C. Meigs made to the development and ultimately the preservation of the Union. Even though he did not lead troops in battle, he earned the profound respect and admiration of military and civilian leaders who recognized his profound and immense military value. His application of his broad talents – logistical manager, architect, planner, designer, builder, artist, and inventor were unmatched in the military history of this country.



Montgomery C. Meigs

He was born in May 1816 in Augusta, Georgia, the son of a prominent obstetrician and grandson of the president of the University of Georgia. When his family relocated to Philadelphia, he attended Franklin Institute and then the University of Pennsylvania entering at the age of fifteen. He subsequently attended West Point, majoring in Engineering in 1832. He graduated in 1836 with a ranking of fifth in a class of thirty-two and earned the breveted rank of Second Lieutenant.



The Union Arch Bridge carries the Washington Aqueduct across Cabin John Creek in 2008.

In subsequent years, he was assigned to the rebuilding of military forts in Delaware, Indiana, and New York. He also worked under the leadership and direction of Robert E. Lee in 1837 with the Army Corps of Engineers, completing navigational improvements to the Mississippi River and earning Lee's deep respect for this future adversary. His talents were further recognized in the 1850's when he was asked to research an appropriate water source, design, and then to supervise the construction of the 2.3-million-dollar sixteen-mile Washington, D.C. Aqueduct Project that would provide a long term supply of fresh and desperately needed water to the city. The death of Meigs' two young sons from the ingestion of foul

water may have served to inspire Meigs' continuing commitment to the completion of this water supply project, still in active use today.

He was also assigned to oversee the Capitol Building Expansion Project with physical and aesthetic improvements to the building's interior and exterior, including its nine million pound dome, columns, paintings, stairwells, windows, and galleries. Secretary of War Jefferson Davis also assigned him to lead other projects, including the Post Office Building, Fort Madison improvements, and additional wings to the Treasury and Interior Buildings.



U S Capitol Building



Fort Jefferson, Florida

later forced to resign, and Meigs was recalled to Washington to continue his work on the Aqueduct and Capitol .

He subsequently experienced conflict with Secretary of War John Floyd over Floyd's lack of effective cost control practices and his selection of unqualified contractors, which resulted in Meigs being transferred to Fort Jefferson in Florida. Floyd was



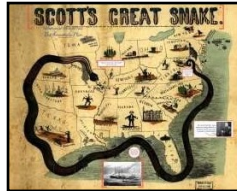
Old Post Office Building



In March 1861, Meigs attended the Inauguration of President Lincoln and despite his misgivings concerning the new president, he felt that Lincoln's inaugural words "put into every patriotic heart new strength and hope" and that each word fell like a "sledgehammer." Three weeks later, Lincoln asked Meigs to coordinate a strong, but secret, manpower supply and logistical mission for the reinforcement and defense of Fort Pickens, in Pensacola, Florida,



which Meigs convinced Lincoln could be held. The Fort remained in Union control for the duration of the war, earning Lincoln's continuing reliance upon Meigs' military management skills. When asked by Lincoln for his view on the Anaconda Plan to win the war, he told Lincoln that "It would not be a better idea to beat them here than go far into an unhealthy country to fight there."



Better formed Meigs during the early stage of the war, "The people are impatient, we have no money, to press McClellan, aggressively get on with

the war, and establish a war council. When a frustrated Lincoln inquired, "What shall I do? The army and McClellan has typhoid." Meigs advised Lincoln



Montgomery C. Meigs

After Lincoln promoted him from Captain to Colonel with the Army Corps of Engineers, Lincoln then appointed Meigs as Quartermaster and Brigadier General after Joseph Johnston's resignation. During the war, he coordinated extensive supply efforts in support of McClellan's Peninsula Campaign, Burnside at Fredericksburg, Meade at Gettysburg, Sherman at Atlanta and Savannah, and Grant throughout the Overland Campaign culminating at Appomattox. In doing so, the range of support he provided was enormous and included the acquisition of military supplies, artillery procurement, building of 600 boats and ships to transport troops, laying of hundreds of miles of railroad track over 50 different railroad lines, provision of 200,000 horses and mules, construction of hospitals, and the supply of food (3,000 calories per day), and clothing for millions of active troops. Meigs achieved this through the expenditure of millions of dollars in congressional appropriations, the careful and honest awarding of thousands of supply contracts, and the management of 130,000 Quartermaster employees involved in military use manufacturing. Lincoln best expressed it when he said, "I do not know one who combines the qualities of masculine intellect, learning, experience of the right sort, and physical power of labor and endurance as well as he." His success was a testimonial to the talents he applied – diligence, innovation skills, honesty, attention to detail, project management, and organizational genius.

As the Union death count continued to rise and existing cemetery facilities, such as Soldiers Home and Alexandria, became insufficient to provide internment locations, Meigs reviewed all available sites to meet this demand and successfully recommended what is now known as Arlington National Cemetery. Meigs saw this site's advantages – the property was located on elevated grounds, had an expansive view of the Potomac, and it would deny Lee the use of his former



home after the war. Meigs had grown to hate Lee after the death of Meigs' son John, whom he felt had been murdered after his capture by Confederates. John was later buried at Arlington with a service attended by Lincoln and Stanton. Meigs coordinated continuing improvements to this national cemetery after the war, including the Civil War Unknown Monument, Field of the Dead, McClellan Gate, Temple of Fame, and a meeting amphitheater.



Arlington National Cemetery  
McClellan Gate

At war's end, while in Washington on the evening of April 14, 1865, and upon hearing of the shooting of President Lincoln, Meigs rushed to the Petersen House and remained there until the President's death the following morning. He subsequently participated in the funeral procession from the White House to the Capitol Building and then to the funeral train.

Meigs continued to reside in Washington and remained active at the conclusion of the war. He continued to serve as Quartermaster until retiring in 1882, as required by President Chester Arthur. He assisted in the design of a new museum for the Smithsonian, visited Europe to study military operations of other nations, and designed and monitored the construction of the Pension Bureau Building (now the National Building Museum).



National Building Museum, Wash D.C.

Montgomery Meigs died of influenza on January 2, 1892, at the age of 76. His funeral service, in which 200 Union soldiers marched in tribute, was held at St. John's Church near the White House. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Upon his death, the Army issued the following General Order: The Civil War in the United States could not have been prosecuted by the government with the smallest hope of success, had not the Union armies been properly provided and cared for by the Quartermaster's Department. Fortunately, for the country, there was at the head of the Department – Montgomery Meigs.

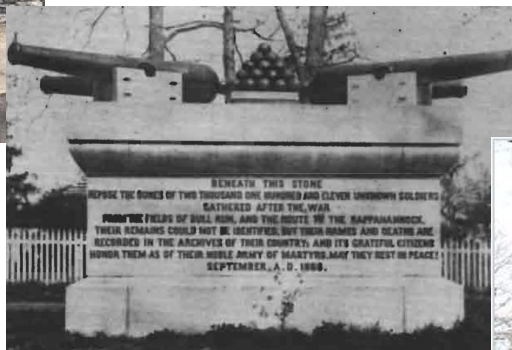
James McPherson, eminent Civil War historian, described Meigs as the "Unsung hero of the Civil War." In 1986, Montgomery Meigs was inducted into the Quartermaster Hall of Fame. Camp Meigs, located in Reading, Massachusetts, has been deservedly named in his honor.



St. John's Church



Camp Meigs, Hyde Park, MA



Civil War Unknowns Monument



The white tomb of Montgomery C. Meigs: To the left is the sarcophagus Meigs designed for his son, John (shown in high relief). To the right is a marker above the graves of his father and grandfather, who were reinterred next to him.



The Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs, U.S.A. historical marker in Augusta, Georgia, erected by the Georgia Historical Society in 2012.



**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW BEDFORD CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE MEMORIAL SERVICE  
ON MAY 27 AT RURAL CEMETERY**

