

THE FLAGBEARER

Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table New Bedford, Massachusetts

May 2020

No May Meeting Scheduled

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

...Due to the Covid-19 the Board of Directors have cancelled the annual June picnic. However, it was determined that perhaps we could plan a late summer social gathering. This would kick off the fall program season with a review of our speaker schedule, a book raffle, and dinner. Let's see how the summer shapes up for a get together.

...Please continue to support our Facebook page

...Have you been doing Civil War podcasts? Or checking other Round Table newsletters, or perhaps rereading favorite Civil War books.

...I've done quite a few YouTube Civil War lectures, but frankly get burned out sooner and sooner.

...The American Battlefield Trust website remains the best overall source of Civil War history information, especially the animated battlefield maps.

....RLL

...Message from the President— New Bedford Civil War Round Table

Dear Friends,

It is with great difficulty that I write this letter. The loss of our President Joe Langlois in February was a difficult one. Joe was a friend and mentor to many of us, and I'm sure you all share my deepest sympathies for Joe's family. I trust that he is in a better place now, and I offer my prayers to all those who still mourn.

No one could ever fill Joe's shoes. His tireless leadership could never be replaced. I will do my best to succeed him though. Trusting in the confidence that the Board placed in me, we'll do our best to take the New Bedford Civil War Round Table into the next decade. We will continue to grow and develop, and we are forever grateful to Joe for what he started.

Shortly after Joe's passing, we were struck with another, very difficult circumstance. The spread of COVID-19 has certainly changed all of our lives. Unfortunately, this has led to the cancellation of all the rest of our meetings and events through June. Know that we will be back together soon! We will persevere, and we will come out on the other end of this.

I am incredibly excited to undertake this new position. We will be working on a lot of things – continuing to develop our virtual presence, looking into our by-laws, and continuing to offer you the top-notch presentations we have always provided in the past.

I want to offer a special word of thanks to the Board Members for all that they do. I am tremendously blessed to have their guidance and their help.

I know that as we continue to develop and grow, we will do our duty in keeping the memory of those brave individuals who lived, fought, and died in the American Civil War alive. I wish to leave you with a quote I often end my presentations with. Joshua L. Chamberlain upon returning to the fields of Gettysburg stated – "In great deeds, something abides. On great fields something stays. Forms change and pass; bodies disappear, but spirits linger, to consecrate ground for the vision-place of souls. And reverent men and women from afar and generations that know us not and that we know not of, heart-drawn to see where and by whom great things were suffered and done for them, shall come to this deathless field, to ponder and dream..., and the power of the vision pass into their souls."

Your obedient servant,

Mark Mello

President New Bedford Civil War Round Table



Mark Mello, President, NB CW Round Table

2020 Executive Board

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Cell # 508-542-7630

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...Civil War begins—it is now May 1861

May 1... three weeks after the firing on Ft Sumter, talk is over, shells begin to fly. Would foreign powers recognize the Confederacy at Montgomery, Alabama? In Boston, full military honors were accorded those killed in the Baltimore riots. Federal troops continue to pour into Washington D.C.

May 3... Pres. Lincoln calls for an additional 43,000 volunteers, to serve 3 years unless sooner discharged. He also authorizes 8 new regiments of infantry, 1 each for cavalry, and artillery, for the Regular Army. In addition, the navy was authorized an additional 18,000 seamen.

On this day, orders were issued for the formation of the Army of the Ohio, comprising of troops from Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Young George Brinton McClellan in charge.

Both pro-Union and pro-Confederate meetings were being held in Maryland. Missouri was about to explode.

May 6... Arkansas and Tennessee legislatures pass secession ordinances. Confederacy recognizes a state of war with the United States.

In the UK , the Parliament announced that the British had decided to recognize the Confederate States as belligerents, but this did not constitute recognition of them as a nation.

May 7... President Lincoln reviewed the flashy New York Fire Brigade of Zouaves, and later received a committee from a governor's' convention. He also made this statement to his secretaries, the question was " whether a full and representative government had the right and power to protect and maintain itself."

May 10... St. Louis exploded into action. Troops marched, shots were fired, and people fell. The pro-Union elements in town, including the large German population , were organized under Capt. Nathaniel Lyon , temporarily commanding the arsenal. Opposing this group were the Home Guards, and the State Militia.

Elsewhere, the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Alabama announced its withdrawal from Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States. And , a peculiar weapon known as the Winans steam gun was captured by Federals while being sent South from Baltimore.

May 13... Without permission from Army Headquarters, Brig. Gen'l Benjamin Butler moved troops into Baltimore and took possession of Federal Hill.

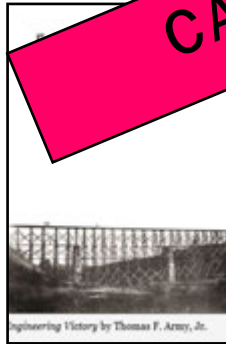
Queen Victoria officially issued a proclamation declaring Britain's determination to maintain a strict neutrality between contending parties in America, and to accord both sides the rights of belligerents. British citizens were warned against assisting either side. U.S. Minister to Britain , Charles Francis Adams arrives in London this evening to learn of this news.

Spring 2020 Speaker/Meeting Schedule

April 21, 2020

Tom Army Jr.

Engineering Victory; How Technology Won the War for the Union



Engineering Victory by Thomas F. Army, Jr.

Dr. Thomas F. Army is an adjunct professor at Quinebaug Valley Community College, Connecticut



Thomas F. Army, Jr.

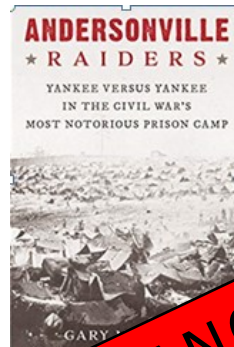
lege, Connecticut

May 26, 2020

Mary Gorman A.K.A. Gary Morgan

"The Andersonville Raiders"

The first book devoted exclusively to the Andersonville Raiders.



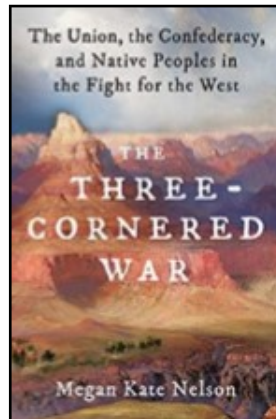
On the evening of July 11, 1864, six men were marched into Andersonville Prison, surrounded by a cordon of guards, the prison commandant, and a Roman Catholic priest. The six men were handed over to a small execution squad, and while 26,000 Union prisoners looked on , the six were hung. The, six, part of a larger group known as the Raiders, were killed,

FALL 2020 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

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



Annual Joseph E. Langlois Book Award

Announcement

The New Bedford Civil War Round Table is pleased to announce that the 2020 Joseph E. Langlois Book Award in the amount of five hundred dollars has been presented to Rachel Perry. Rachel is currently a senior at Old Rochester Regional High School. She is a well deserving award recipient based upon her superior academic record, extensive participation in school activities, community activity involvement, and the quality of her submitted essay on New Bedford's role in the Civil War. Next fall, Rachel intends to pursue her education at Cornell University.

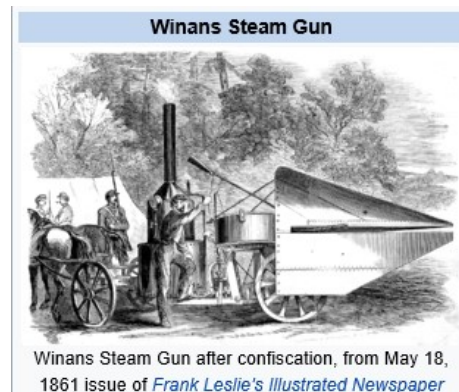
Rachel was among an array of highly qualified applicants, and we extend our congratulations to her, and express our very best wishes to her for what we are confident will be a very successful college experience.

...for the committee, Peter Rioux



The Winans Steam Gun

... A Civil War oddity. The Winans Steam Gun was a steam-powered centrifugal gun invented just prior to the Civil War, using centrifugal force , rather than gunpowder to propel projectiles. The barrel rotated 250 times a minute. Shot dumped into the top of the barrel rolled down into it and was held back by a spring loaded gate that opened to allow one shot to be flung out per revolution of the barrel. It did not have the force or accuracy of gunpowder weaponry. It was abandoned, but first it's history found it in Baltimore in May of 1861. As the war broke out its owner tried to sell it to the Confederacy at Harper's Ferry. Federal forces captured it. Before sending it North , the 6th Mass Volunteers tested it. While it cause quite a stir in the media , it ended up little more a curiosity and was later scrapped. From Wikipedia



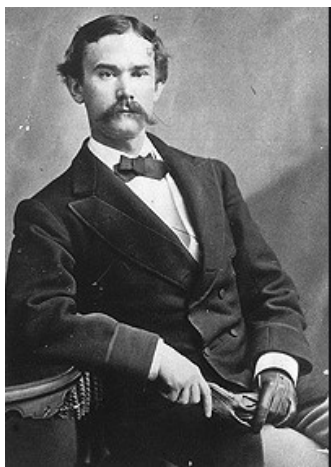
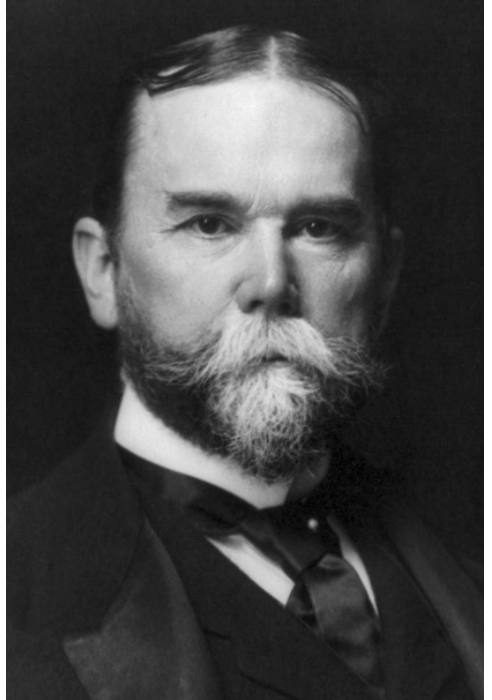
John Hay The Man Who Best Knew Lincoln, by Peter Rioux

There are many who claimed to have known the real Lincoln. One man, however, fittingly deserves this description; one who directly and closely served him and was able to provide an authentic and firsthand account of a working life with Lincoln and then to define his legacy. That man was John Hay, his trusted executive assistant and private secretary and one who was in a position to see it all during Lincoln's entire term as president. And one, by virtue of the diplomatic skills he had honed while serving Lincoln was able to apply them once again in service to three subsequent presidents and his nation.

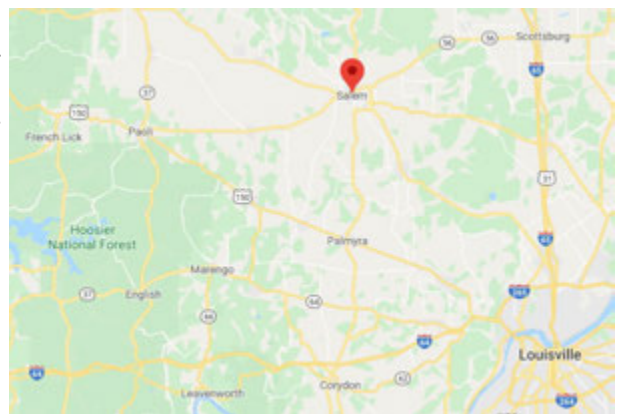
John Hay was born in October 1838, the third son of Dr. Charles Hay, in Salem, Indiana. The family then moved to Warsaw, Illinois, when he was three years of age. As he matured, he developed a strong aptitude for languages (later mastering four- especially German), becoming a voracious reader, and possessing a retentive memory. His early desire was to become a poet. He later obtained his college education by attending Illinois State and Brown University, graduating with honors.

Upon graduation in 1859, and being uncertain of a specific profession to actively pursue, he decided to commence his legal studies in his Uncle Milton's law office, an office located adjacent to the law practice of Lincoln and Herndon with whom Hay's uncle was friendly.

In 1860, Hay became friendly with John Nicolay who was serving as an assistant to Lincoln as he sought the Republican nomination for President. Nicolay, facing an increasing work burden, recommended that Lincoln hire Hay to provide needed assistance in the campaign. When Hay's uncle offered to pay Hay's salary for six months, Lincoln agreed. Upon Lincoln's victory in November 1860, Hay was retained to assist Nicolay in the voluminous transition presidential effort. Liking the personal and working compatibility between Hay and Nicolay, and admiring Hay's writing skills, Lincoln appointed Hay to serve as an equally responsible executive assistant / private secretary with his compensation provided through the Department of Interior while being assigned to the White House. Hay traveled with Lincoln from Springfield to Washington to prepare for Lincoln's inauguration and assumption of challenging presidential responsibilities.



While serving Lincoln and residing full time in the White House at the age of twenty- two, Hay assumed extensive administrative responsibilities similar to a modern -day presidential Chief of Staff, while working seven days per week. He wrote letters to constituents and members of Congress on Lincoln's behalf, read all incoming mail sent to Lincoln, often wrote first draft speeches adeptly capturing Lincoln's style, screened visitors, interviewed office seekers, prepared a daily digest of news for Lincoln's review, wrote letters to newspapers advancing the administration's positions, managed appointments, delivered messages to Lincoln's commanders, and attended all major presidential meetings. In his diary, he defined his overall role as "keeper of the President's conscience."



During the early stage of Lincoln's term, Hay did not have a very high opinion of the President's ability, initially recording in his diary that he thought Lincoln was a "pottering old man who would leave a weak footprint on our history." As time proceeded, however, Hay developed a rapidly growing admiration for Lincoln's political skills, particularly in his preparation and issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. Hay, at that time, wrote in his diary that "I believe that he will fill a bigger place and that history will treat him greater than he ever dreams of himself. I believe that God has placed him where he is." Hay would later co-write a multi-volume biography of Lincoln that would strongly advance this theme.

Lincoln and Hay developed a strong personal father-son relationship, similar to Washington and Hamilton, providing Hay a growing influence with and trust by the President. Lincoln particularly enjoyed Hay's personality; modesty, easy personality, excellent listener, fierce loyalty, love of literature and theater, sense of humor, enjoyment of Lincoln's jokes and stories, constantly available source of comfort, and negotiating skills. While Lincoln never admonished Hay, Hay quietly displayed a constant admiration for Lincoln. As such, Hay became a constant confidant to Lincoln, often dining together, telling each other stories, and being by his side as Lincoln reached major military decisions. Hay often jokingly referred to Lincoln as the "tycoon." Hay was with Lincoln when he signed the Emancipation Proclamation and traveled with him to Gettysburg to dedicate the Union Cemetery and deliver what would become an historic address. Hay later became the only member of Lincoln's staff to serve in the military (brevet Major) and convey military instructions on Lincoln's behalf to naval commanders in South Carolina. In this



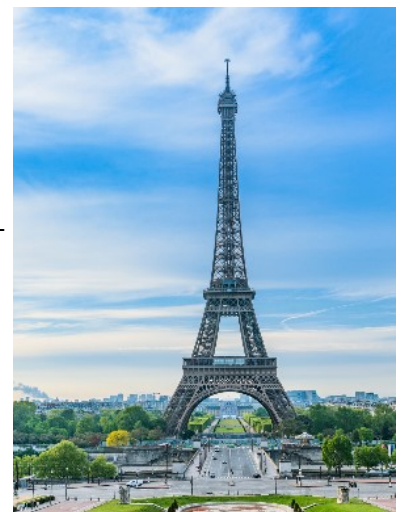
capacity, after meeting with black Union troops and visiting Freedman's schools, he developed a profound respect for the plight of slaves, and enthusiastically supported black military enlistment.



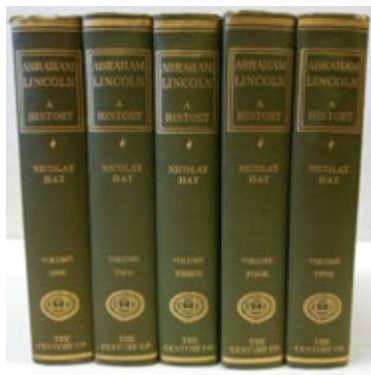
Clara Stone Hay

By early 1865, however, Hay had grown weary of the pace of the White House responsibilities and wanted a diplomatic assignment to Paris. However, on the evening April 14, upon learning of the shooting of the President, he rushed to the Peterson House with his good friend Robert Lincoln and stood by the bedside of the fallen President as Lincoln died the following morning. He later traveled to Springfield to attend Lincoln's funeral and burial. By war's end, Hay came to experience its tragic depth, affecting him as he later applied his diplomatic skills while serving three additional presidents.

Subsequent to Lincoln's death, Hay was appointed as assistant to the U.S. Minister to France, extensively traveled throughout Europe, and served in diplomatic posts in Austria and Spain. He subsequently returned to the United States pursuing his literary interests; writing articles on foreign policy, short stories, and essays, earning the respect of America's literary giant, Mark Twain. In 1872, he married Clara Stone, the daughter of a wealthy railroad designer, becoming a multi-millionaire in the process. He would later serve as Assistant Secretary of State in the Hayes' Administration, become more actively involved in Republican Party politics, and inherit even greater wealth upon the death of his father-in-law.



In 1872, along with John Nicolay, he began to gather and organize all of Lincoln's papers with the exclusive approval of his close friend Robert Lincoln, who placed complete trust and confidence in him in the writing of a complete biography that would also serve to refute some recently published unauthorized Lincoln biographies. Over the fifteen-year period from 1874 – 1889, Hay and Nicolay prepared a massive ten volume biography entitled Lincoln: A History, sharing drafts with Robert Lincoln during the process. Hay started this biographical project at the age of 36, not completing it until he was 51. In preparing his sections of the biography, Hay consulted his complete detailed daily diary, interviewed former Lincoln cabinet members, reviewed Lincoln letters, telegrams, papers, and government documents. By 1889, the 1.2-million-word biography was completed, which Hay asserted was a definite record of the events that Lincoln experienced.



The biography was first serialized for readers of the Century Magazine from 1886-1890, then published as a ten-volume set. This set did not sell well but sold more successfully when published as an abridged version. The biography included some significant historical insights – Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation decision, his twice firing of McClellan, and the writing and delivery of the Gettysburg Address. Although generally greeted favorably, the massive biography received some criticism as being too much of a life and times account, rather than a detailed life of Lincoln, too much of a Northern perspective of the War, and excessively reverential of Lincoln. Despite the criticism, this Lincoln biography still stands the test of time as an early biographical standard bearer and as a significant historical work while advancing the Lincoln legacy.

In 1896, Hays strongly supported the McKinley presidential campaign and was subsequently named Ambassador to the United Kingdom in May 1897. In September 1898, he later served as Secretary of State under McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt. He became the only man to be at the bedside of both Lincoln and McKinley as they died, and officially notified Roosevelt of McKinley's passing. In this capacity, he used his diplomatic skills to negotiate free trade agreements with China, complete negotiations that facilitated the construction of the Panama Canal, as well as fifty other treaties including those with Denmark and Canada. As Secretary of State, he suggested that a monument to Lincoln be constructed on a Washington, D. C. site very close to that which was eventually chosen. Nicolay's wife, upon the death of her husband, provided all of Lincoln's papers to Hay to maintain.



Upon Hay's death from a heart ailment in July 1905 at the age of 66, at his summer home at Lake Sunapee, New Hampshire, the Lincoln papers were returned to their appropriate custodian, Robert Lincoln.

John Hay was buried at Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland near the grave of James Garfield. President Roosevelt was in attendance. The Brown University Special Collections Library was named for him in 1910.



Upon his death, Hay's diary was discovered, and it noted his final entry of 1905, in which he described a dream of preparing a requested letter while serving in the White House and composing it under the watchful eye of the nation's sixteenth President.