

THE FLAGBEARER

Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table

New Bedford, Massachusetts

May 18, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

ZOOM Meeting

This issue of the Flagbearer

...Please note meeting date change to the third Tuesday of the month

...Peter Rioux's essay on General John A. Logan

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

...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"

...Quartermaster Dept. How many wagons travel with the Army

...Civil War highlights May 1863

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

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

May 18, 2021 7:00 P.M.



David Dixon presents : The Lost Gettysburg Address:
Charles Anderson's Civil War Odyssey.

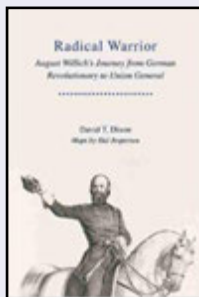
David explains how Anderson, a slave owner, ended up sharing the spotlight with Lincoln November 1863.

David Dixon earned his M.A. in History at the University of Massachusetts in 2003. He has been on tour visiting Round Tables from coast-to-coast. As with many of our speakers, it is

worthwhile to find them on You Tube and listen to their presentation work.

In this case David's talk at the Gettysburg Foundation Sacred Trust symposium in 2016 is a good start to understanding this interesting piece of history.

The Charles Anderson speech was never published and was forgotten for 150 years. David Dixon brings it to life in a most interesting way.



During the May meeting we will be giving away four of David's newest book, "Radical Warrior". You must be present on the Zoom call at the end of his presentation to win.

Page 2 and 3 of this issue of the Flagbearer features an essay by Round Table member Peter Rioux. His essays are always first rate. His subject this month is the originator of Memorial Day, General John A. Logan. His General Order #11 was issued when he was Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic and formalized the decorating with flowers, graves of Union soldiers, later revised to 'all who served'. Congratulations Peter on another excellent essay.



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General John A. Logan
Memorial Day Creator, by Peter Rioux



Memorial Day has served as a sacred day of observance to allow a grateful nation to honor

those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defending those freedoms and expressions of liberty that we all too often take for granted.

While many others felt that a day of devotion of profound respect for those who committed such sacrificial service was warranted, one man asserted the leadership to inspire and then create such a day of memorial observance, a day that has become one of honor over the past one hundred and fifty-three years. General John A. Logan.

This solemn day of commemoration was first established by this Union "political general" and military volunteer to honor those who fought so bravely giving of their lives to preserve the Union.

He was born on February 9, 1826, in Murphysboro, Illinois, the son of a doctor. He studied law and was elected County Clerk. During the Mexican War, he subsequently enlisted in the First Illinois Infantry as a quartermaster with the rank of Second Lieutenant, but experienced little military action. Upon his return after the war, he served in the Illinois House of Representatives from 1853-1854 and then was elected to Congress as a Democrat in 1858. He expressed some views favorable to the South's slavery position, but opposed slavery's expansion into the western states. In 1862, he resigned his seat in Congress to volunteer for military action in support of the Union.

During the early portion of the war, he served as a volunteer in the Michigan Regiment at Bull Run 1 and later while serving under Grant as Brigadier General in the Illinois Infantry Regiment he had organized, he was severely wounded at



Fort Donelson. During the Vicksburg Campaign, he led successful Union efforts at Port Gibson and Raymond and Champion Hills. At Vicksburg, he was one of the first to enter the city after the siege, later serving as Military Governor.

He was later appointed as Commander of the Union Army of Tennessee after General James McPherson was killed. After McPherson's death, Logan ordered a massive counter attack yelling, "McPherson and revenge, boys" to inspire the Union troops. Confederates under John Bell Hood were driven back within thirty minutes. This leadership earned Logan the respectful acclaim from his troops, often referring to him as "Black Jack."

Logan was soon demoted by General Sherman, who viewed him, despite his accomplishments, and his view that Logan was "perfect in combat," as a "political general." Logan resented this demotion, but continued to later serve under Sherman as Commander of the Fifteenth Corp as part of the Carolina campaign. Grant viewed Logan's military prowess highly in that he had intended to replace General Thomas with him during the Nashville campaign due to his hesitancy, but did not pursue this replacement once Thomas launched an aggressive Union attack. Sherman was to later restore Logan's command position at the end of the war, directing Logan to lead the Army of Tennessee in the Grand Parade



held in Washington, D.C.. Logan's Corp marched behind Sherman's from Capitol Hill to the White House. This honor was appropriate in that Logan had vigorously supported and campaigned for Lincoln's re-election during the 1864 Presidential Campaign.

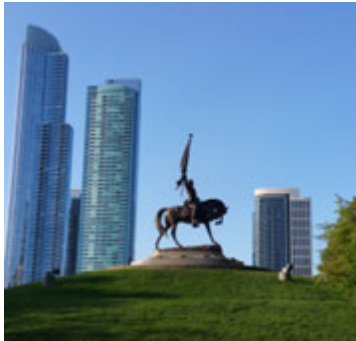


After the President's assassination, Logan ordered two thousand of his Union troops into camp to prevent the planned effort to burn the city of Raleigh as an expression of Union revenge.

After the war, Logan converted his party affiliation to Republican, serving in Congress once again from 1867-1871. While serving, he was appointed by his colleagues to serve as one of seven house managers to present the case for conviction in the impeachment of Andrew Johnson before the U.S. Senate.

As an expression of respect, Logan was asked to be the keynote speaker at a local grave decoration in Carbondale, Illinois, in 1866. At this ceremony, he stated that, "Every man's life belongs to his country, and no man has the right to refuse when his country calls for it."

He also was selected to serve as the second Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. It was in this capacity that he led the successful effort to develop a national decorating ceremony at Union soldiers' graves starting in May 1868, issuing General Order #11. Paragraph four of this Order states, "Let us, then, at the time appointed, gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with the choicest flowers of springtime; let us raise above them the



dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us as sacred charges upon the nation's gratitude – the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan."

The first National Decoration Day (later changed to Memorial Day after World War One) was held at Arlington Cemetery on May 30, 1868, with 5,000 people attending, including President Grant.

General Logan later served two terms in the U.S. House and three terms in the U.S. Senate. In 1884, as U.S. Senator, he was nominated for Vice President with Presidential nominee James Blaine, but the Republican ticket was defeated by Democratic nominee Grover Cleveland.

He authored two books on his experiences during the Civil War, The Great Conspiracy and The Volunteer Soldier in America.

He was considered to be the front runner for the Presidential nomination in 1888, but he was to die from a rheumatism affliction on December 24, 1886.

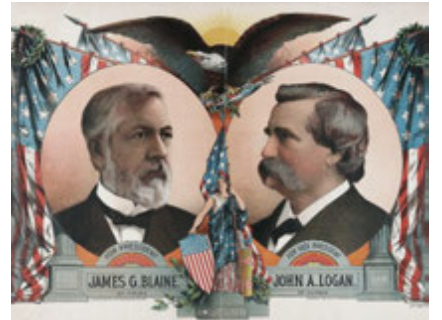
As an expression of honor, he laid in state at the

U.S. Capitol (only the seventh person to be so honored at that time) and was buried at the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, the site of Lincoln's summer retreat in Washington.



Tributes for General Logan, considered as the best "political general" of the war, were established after his death

– Logan Circle in Washington, D.C., Logan Museum located near his home birthplace, a community college, a statue located at Grant Park in Chicago, as well as four other statues of honor, and the inclusion of his name in the Illinois state song. "On the record of the years, Abraham Lincoln's name appears, Grant and Logan and our tears, Illinois – Illinois, Grant and Logan on our tears, Illinois."



John Logan had hoped that the observance of Decoration Day would be kept from year to year. In accordance with his profound wish, and his legacy, it has.



The Logan Family. Library of Congress.

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.

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

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



Quartermaster Supply Responsibilities

The Quartermaster Department of an Army, such as Meade’s Army, is responsible for keeping that army on the move, without which no campaign can be executed. The Quartermaster is responsible for clothing, transportation, horses, mules, wagons, forage, and supplies, such as tents, food, hospitals, wharves, railroad building, lumber, bridges (Burnside’s pontoons) , barracks building, and so on. Let’s focus on a small area, — transportation in the field.

One Union Army will need about 3,000 wagons, most of which a 6 mules teams. Each regiment has six wagons, ten to a brigade, and in the batteries , one per gun. In the order of march one hundred wagons cover one mile of road, if all wagons were lined up single file , 30 miles. Each wagon carried 2,800 lbs and travelled at the rate of 2.5 mph. Ammunition wagons had a horizontal stripe painted on each side, the stripes were red for artillery, yellow for cavalry, and blue for infantry. The ambulance

contingent required 600 wagons.

Meade’s Army had about fifty thousand head and horses and mules, at the cost of \$110 for horses , and \$105 for mules.

Twelve pounds of hay and ten pounds of grain are the daily requirement for each horse and mule. In April 1863 the Army had on hand 24,000 bales on hay, and 200,000 sacks of grain. Hay was \$25 per ton and corn was \$1.25 per bushel.

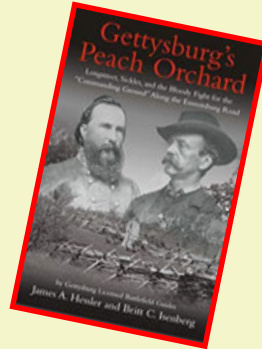
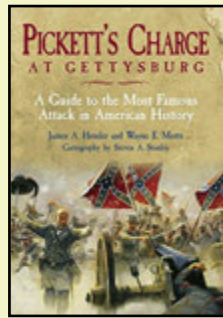
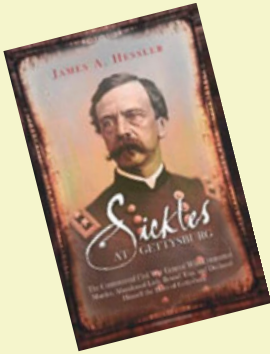
The railroads in an army’s territory are military roads, and are operated entirely by the government superintendent and the quartermaster. And army required fifty freight car loads daily , or 300 tons.

All steamboats are bought or chartered by the quartermaster. For this an enormous amount of money is required, and it is at this point I will remind you of the Sultana tragedy, as presented by David Kelly several months ago.

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



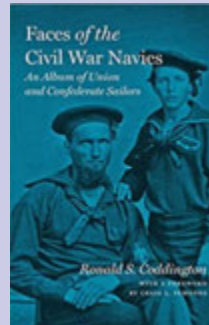
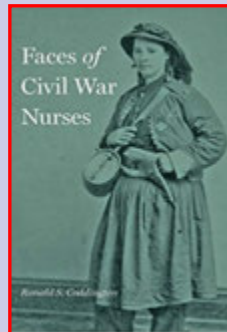
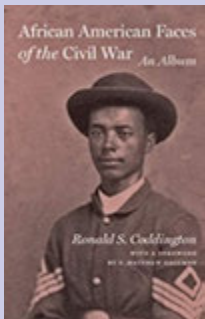
James A. Hessler

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**



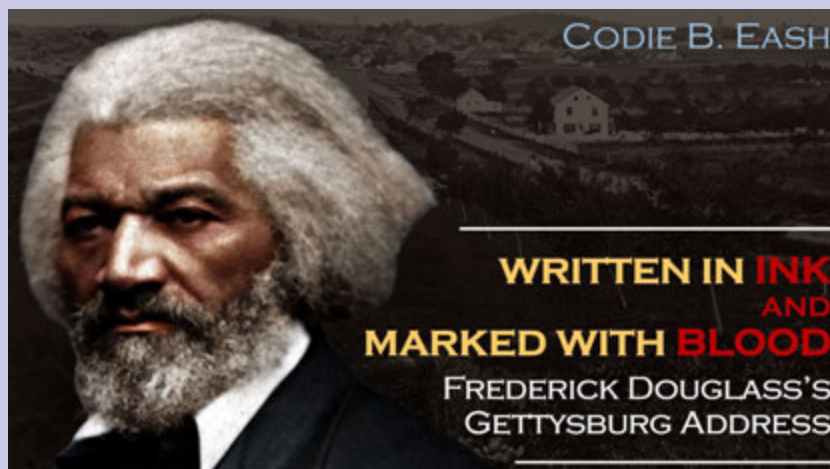
Mr. Codie Eash

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.



The American Civil War—May 1863

On two of three major fronts, Northern armies move in new offensives. The Army of the Potomac under Joe Hooker was positioned at Chancellorsville in the Wilderness of Northern Virginia, ready to move between Lee and Richmond. At Fredericksburg a portion of Hooker's army under Sedgwick threatened the Confederates from that direction. On the Mississippi Union attempts to capture or lay siege to Vicksburg are underway.

...May 1 Lee grasps Hooker's intention at Chancellorsville and moves 70,000 men out of Fredericksburg, leaving Jubal Early behind in Fredericksburg.

...May 1 Battle of Port Gibson, Mississippi begins.

...May 1. Lee and Jackson meet and develop the strategy to split the army and flank the Union army.

...May 2 Jackson shot by mistake by his own men as he scouts the advance position.

...May 3 Battle of Chancellorsville continues. Hooker knocked unconscious. The Union Army withdraws on May 4

...May 9 Gen'l Joe E. Johnston was ordered to take command of all Southern troops in Mississippi.

...May 10. Stonewall Jackson dies from his wounds as pneumonia sets in. (raise your hand if you have been to Guiney Station to visit the cottage where he died)

... May 16 Battle of Champion's Station

...May 18 Siege of Vicksburg begins

...May 22 General Alfred Pleasonton is named to head Hooker's Cavalry Corps, replacing Stoneman

...May 27 New Bedford native Lt. Col. William Logan Rodman shot through the heart as Gen'l Bank's Federals made its first assault on Port Hudson. After the war the "Fort at Clark's Point" is renamed Fort Rodman

...May 28 From Boston the 54th Mass Volunteers left for Hilton Head, S.C.. It was the first black regiment sent from the North.

...May 30 Lee reorganizes his Army into three Corps; Ewell, A.P. Hill, and James Longstreet



Lt. Col. Rodman

New Bedford Civil War Round Table

2020-2021 Membership Form

Program Year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

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

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Thank you for being a member of the New Bedford Civil War Round Table