

This issue of the Flagbearer

...November meeting is a Zoom meeting, Nov 17 at 7:00 p.m.

**NOVEMBER 2020**



...We have had two successful Zoom meetings and November's meeting will be interesting as well. At the October Zoom meeting 29 participants were online.

...Paid your dues for the year? Dec 30 is the deadline to remain a member in good standing. Not sure if you are paid up? Email Marty Flinn, Treas, or myself. Bob Lytle

...We are lining up speakers that are sure to please the membership. Check the Flagbearer for updates. You can always find a current copy of the Flagbearer on our Facebook page.

...Miss the David Kelly Oct Zoom meeting? It is on our new YouTube site.

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

Cell # 508-542-7630

bobbylee76@comcast.net

# THE FLAGBEARER

## Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table

New Bedford, Massachusetts

November 17, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

**ZOOM Meeting**

Zoom Meeting November 17, 2020 7:00 p.m.

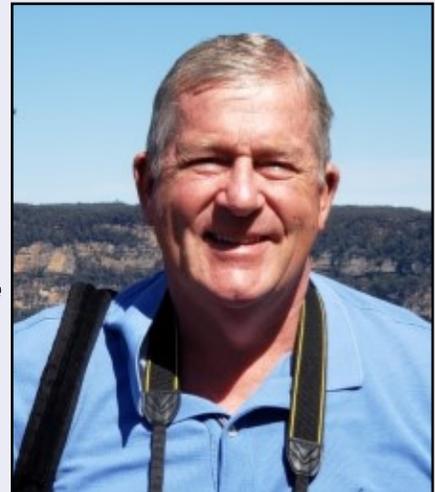
Paul R. Prentiss, CM

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

Paul Prentiss will Zoom with us Tuesday November 17th at 7:00 p.m.

We do not spend enough time on the naval history of the Civil War. Here is an opportunity to learn about one of the North's great naval commanders. Born in the South, moved his family North at the outbreak of hostilities, and offered his services to the Union. Paul will tell us about the Admiral's campaign to seal off Mobile Bay against the Confederates blockade runners; a major blow to the South's effort to supply its forces.



**How do I join in to the Zoom call ?**

If you were with us on the David Kelly Jr Zoom meeting, in October, you do not need to do anything. I will be using that email list for the Nov Zoom meeting. If you were not with us in October, and are new to our Round Table, you will need to send me an email asking to be included in the November meeting. I will respond with a Zoom link and instructions.

When you send me your request, be sure to include your name along with your email address.

**Bob Lytle**    bobbylee76@comcast.net    508-542-7630

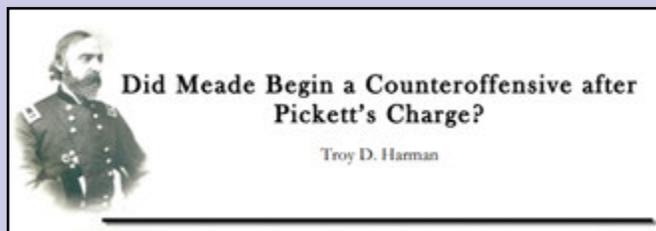
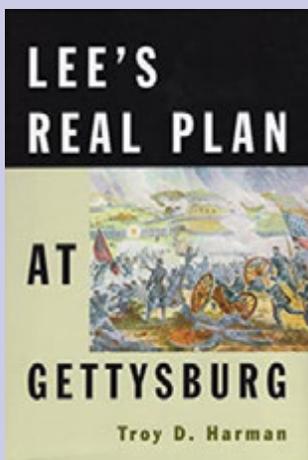
December 15, 2020 7:00 p.m. Zoom Speaker

**Troy D. Harman, Ph.D.**

Gettysburg Battlefield National Park Ranger, Author, Historian, and Guide

Troy teaches courses in U.S. and European history at the university level. He has been at the Gettysburg National Military Park for many years and with the National Park Service for over 35 years. Dr. Harman has published two books and numerous articles and presented many televised lectures. You can find him on You Tube, definitely fun to watch. Troy guided Al and Dave Smith's Boston Round Table "Four Days in May" tour several years ago. Troy's "Battlefield Walks" and "Coffee with a Ranger" You Tube videos are fun to watch and educational. He delivers thoughtful and challenging material during his lectures. Troy has a passion for teaching.

Troy's career began as an Interpretive Park Ranger at Appomattox Court House National Military Park in Virginia in 1984. He has held similar posts at Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky, Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, and at Independence National History Park, Philadelphia. He has been at the Gettysburg National Military Park since 1991. His B.A. Degree is from University of Lynchburg, his M.A. from Shippensburg University, and his Ph. D. from Lehigh University.



*This will be a unique Zoom session. While Troy could present on any number of topics, we've decided that tonight's presentation will be an expanded Q & A. This will be especially interesting for those that have walked the Gettysburg Battlefield. As an example. Did Meade order a counteroffensive? Was Lee ill prepared? How was Gettysburg selected as a battlefield site? Was Chamberlain the hero of Gettysburg? Did Sickles disobey orders? Was Meade's reliance on a council of war wise? Was Longstreet late on the second day? Should Ewell have taken Cemetery Hill on the first day? What would Stonewall have done? Is Greene the real hero of Gettysburg? Those are a few questions off the top that I can think of. .... Bob*

**.....The Civil War timeline November 1861**

**Nov 1 ...** McClellan supplants Winfield Scott. Scott realized he must give way to the youthful 34 year general

**Nov 2...** Fremont is removed at St Louis, Mo. There were rumors that Fremont should "set up for himself" a new nation in the West

**Nov 4 ...** Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson assumed command of his new Shenandoah Valley District

**Nov 5...** Gen Robert E. Lee was named commander of the new Department of So. Carolina, Georgia, and East Florida

**Nov 6...** Voters of the Confederate States of America went to the polls and officially elected Jefferson Davis as their new President

**Nov 7...** Battle of Port Royal Sound, So. Carolina. The Federals led by Flag Officer Du Pont led his powerful Federal naval squadron into Port Royal Sound, forcing the Confederates to leave Fort Walker and Fort Beauregard. The Federals now had a toehold in the Confederate states between Hilton Head and Charleston and held it throughout the war, thus giving the Union Navy a coaling and supply base. Later Port Royal became a center for black slave refugees.

**Nov 8...** The seizure of Mason and Slidell occurred and the Trent Affair begins

**Nov 9...** Lincoln reorganizes the War Department. The new military departments are: Department of Kansas with Hunter in charge, Department of New Mexico with Canby in charge, the Department of Missouri with Halleck in charge, with the idea of straightening out the mess created by Fremont, the Department of the Ohio with Buell in charge and superseding William Sherman , who left under a cloud.

**Nov 13...** In the evening President Lincoln with his secretary John Hay visited Gen'l McClellan at his home. McClellan returns but goes to bed without seeing his President.

**Nov 25...** The Confederate Navy accepts a shipment of armor plate and begins to convert the former U.S.S. Merrimack into the ironclad C.S.S. Virginia at the Norfolk Navy yard.

**Nov 26...** A convention at Wheeling in western Virginia adopted a constitution for a new state to be call West Virginia

**Nov 29...** Near Charleston, southern planters begin to burn their cotton crops, to deny the Federals cotton

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, MARK MELLO**

Dear Friends,

Tough to believe the calendar has already flipped to November. For a year that has been so filled with ups and downs, I truly hope that our first two meetings have provided you with much needed mental and social stimulation. Both Dr. Megan Kate Nelson's and Professor David Kelly's lectures were fascinating. We have posted Professor Kelly's lecture on the Sultana tragedy to our YouTube page. If you missed the lecture or want to watch it again, check it out our YouTube page.

A reminder that it is time to pay our dues for the 2020 -2021 season. If you have not done so, please see later in this newsletter to find out how to submit them.

Our next speaker will be Paul R. Prentiss. Mr. Prentiss will be discussing Admiral Farragut at the Battle of Mobile Bay. This promises to be a fascinating lecture. We hope you will join us. Note that the lecture in November will be held on the third Tuesday of the month, as the fourth Tuesday falls on the week of Thanksgiving.

I also want to draw your attention to our December speaker. Bob Lytle worked diligently to get us an extra special speaker. Dr. Troy Harman is a Park Ranger at Gettysburg National Military Park, and is a revered speaker on Civil War topics. You'll want to make sure you join us for this one! We are very excited to welcome Dr. Harman to our Round Table!

Finally, the Board of Directors will be meeting at some point in the next few weeks to further discuss progress on our group bylaws and how to continue to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. I'll have an update on this for our next edition of the Flagbearer.

Your obedient servant,

Mark Mello, Pres. New Bedford Civil War Round Table

....In last month's issue of the Flagbearer, I featured a timeline linking Civil War figures to leaders of World War II. I left out one very important person. ....Bob



Charles Henry Nimitz organized the Gillespie Rifles , Gillespie County, Texas, and was its Captain. His grandson was Fleet Admiral Chester T. Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Forces in World War II.

**UPCOMING SPEAKER ANNOUNCEMENT**



**February 23, 2021, 7:00 p.m.—Via Zoom**

**Ben Kemp—Operations Director, Friends of Grant’s Cottage, Mt. McGregor, NY**



We are very pleased to make this announcement. Our speaker series search continues to turn up the high quality presenters on very interesting subjects. February will turn toward President Ulysses S. Grant, 18th President, and his final days at the Adirondack Mountain cottage. Ben Kemp is the Operations Director for the

*Friends of Grant’s Cottage, a living historian, and more.*



***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***

**Name (s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Membership** \_\_\_\_\_ **Individual (\$15.00)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Family (\$20.00)**

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

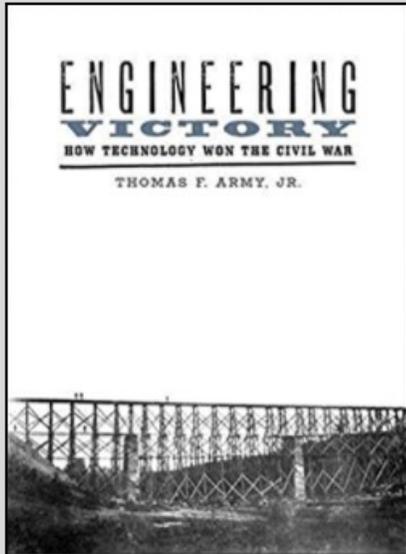
**City, State, & Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell or Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Coming in January



On **January 26, 2021** our featured speaker, via Zoom, will be Civil War Historian **Professor Tom F. Army Jr. Ph.D.** from Quinnipiac University. He is also known for his You Tube series, *History of the United States*. Some of the best You Tube videos on history that I have seen are from Dr. Army, I urge you to check out his videos. His presentation style you will find easy to understand and informative.

**January 26, 2021 Zoom meeting of the New Bedford Civil War Round Table**



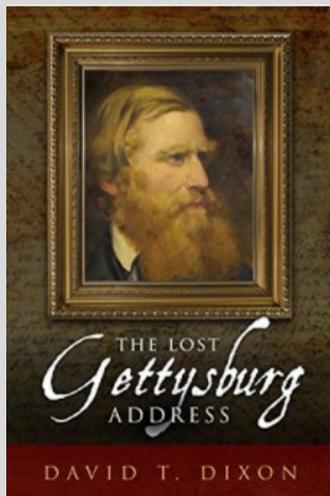
**Tom F. Army Jr, Ph.D.**

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**Speaker for May 18, 2021 is announced. This meeting will be either Zoom or in-person. It is too early to say but our speaker will do either format.**

**May 18, 2021 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.**



## THE SIX MULE TEAM WAGON

The success of any army in the field depends upon the efficiency of the Quartermaster Department. The Quartermaster supply responsibilities are broken up into three main sub-departments: (1) clothing, camp, and garrison equipage; (2) transportation by land and water; and (3) regular and contingent supplies for the army and the department. Under sub-division number two are included all animals, wagons, ambulances, forage,



steam and sail vessels, boats, railroads, and cars in use in the army. A typical field army in the Union would need about three thousand wagons, most of which are 6 mule team. In order of march, 100 wagons will cover about one mile of road. The wagon train for an army, such as the Army of the Potomac, would cover about 30 miles. This would include about 600 ambulances. Horses and mules, about 50,000.

Twelve pounds of hay and 10 pounds of grain make up the daily ration of each horse or mule. On any given day, the Quartermaster of the Army of the Potomac, for example, would have on hand 24,000 bales of hay and 200,000 sacks of grain. And, of course, now you can see why railroads, macadamized roads, and rivers played a major role in the success or failure of campaigns.

The six-mule wagon really started out as an 1838 four-mule escort wagon, a design fostered by the needs to supply the army as a result of the Seminole Indians. The Quartermaster Department needed a wagon that could supply particular army needs, a standardized wagon, with interchangeable parts. The four-mule wagon could not carry the heavy loads required in the field, thus the six-mule team wagon was developed with heavier wheels, larger axles, and increased dimensions on the side rails. This wagon weighed about 2,000 lbs, and could haul 2,000 lbs or more over longer distances without wearing out the team. This was needed for frontier work. This new specification worked well up until the Civil War, when new specifications were drawn up. Brake chains were added and better cross support was needed for still heavier loads. Iron axles and hubs were also developed during the Civil War. As a result of all this development, there were three designs, the 1857 design, the 1864 model, and the 1878 model.

The teamster or mule skinner did not ride in the wagon, but rode the “nigh” or left wheeler mule. The two mules closest to the wagon were called “wheelers”, the next pair were called the swing team, and the front team were called the “leaders”. The teamster controlled the team by use of a “jerk” line to the bit of the nigh leader. The nigh leader had a stick from his harness collar to the bit of the right leader. This stick was called the jockey stick. Steady pressure or sharp pulls turned the team left or right.

A six-mule team wagon would occupy 60 lineal feet, with a wagon 120 inches long, 43 inches wide, 22 inches high and carried 2500 lbs, 3,000 lbs of forage.

A typical wagon carried 1200 rations of hard bread, 2000 rations of coffee, 1800 sugar rations, 300 pork rations, 1200 salt rations, and 36 oat rations. It traveled at about 2.5 mph. A marching division of 15k troops required 4.26 miles of roadway, with an additional 1.5 miles for wagons, and would take 2.5 hours to pass one point.

...Based on an article by Thomas Lindmier and the Facebook page of the “Angry Staff Officer”



Trivia question: First person to email me the answer will get a Dunkin Donut card valued at \$10.00

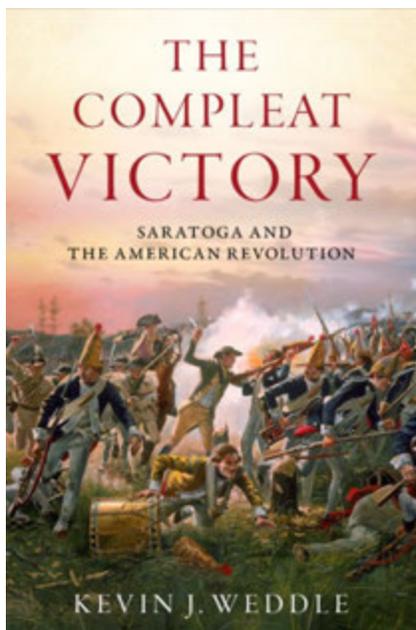
Where am I?



Extra credit, - which arm , left or right?

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This is not Civil War related, but I wanted to give some positive publicity to a friend of our Round Table, Col. Kevin J. Weddle, from the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, PA. He has been a presenter to our Round Table twice. He is about to publish a book outside the Civil War, this time on the Revolutionary War. It will be published in January of 2021. The reviews on this book are excellent. It can be pre-ordered from Amazon.com.

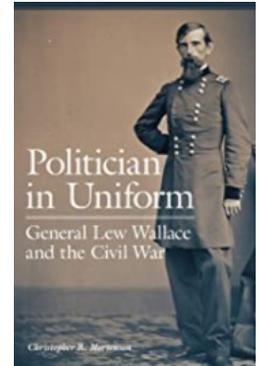


New Book Releases:

Politician in Uniform, by Christopher Mortenson

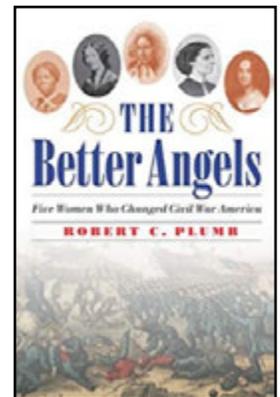
Lew Wallace won his fame with his novel, *Ben-Hur*, and for his negotiations with William H. Bonney, aka Billy the Kid, during the Lincoln County Wars of 1878-81. He was a successful lawyer, a notable Indiana politician, and a capable military administrator.

However, Lew Wallace was thought to perform poorly in the field when given the opportunity to prove himself.



The Better Angels: Five Women Who Changed Civil War America, By Robert C. Plumb

Harriott Tubman, Harriot Beecher Stowe, Clara Barton, Julia Ward Howe, and Sarah Josepha Hale came from different backgrounds, but emerged from the Civil War as giants that made a difference, and illuminated a new way forward for America.



Every Drop of Blood, by Edward Achorn

The second inauguration of Lincoln, after a morning of rain-drenching fury, tens of thousands crowded Washington's Capiol grounds that day to see Abraham Lincoln take the oath of office for a second time. As Lincoln rose to give perhaps the greatest inaugural address in American history, he stunned the nation by arguing, in 701 words, that both sides had been wrong, and that the war's unimaginable horrors, every drop of blood spilled, might well have been God'd just verdict on the national sin of slavery.

