

# THE FLAGBEARER

## Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table New Bedford, Massachusetts November 9, 2021, 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Meeting

*This issue of the Flagbearer*

*...Please note the early meeting date for November's Zoom meeting*

*... Meet the new Executive Board for 2022, Page 1*

*...Future speaker schedule*

*...The Round Table changes meeting location and will hold in person meetings in January 2022*

*...Annual membership dues reminder*

*...Holiday Dinner date announced*

*...News from the Round Table*

*...Peter Rioux's essay on the history of the Medal of Honor*

*...Nov 11 Veteran's Day Ceremony announced*

*...January Speaker addition is announced*

*...This Flagbearer theme is Medal of Honor websites and Pete's essay on the MOH*

*....The Civil War in Nov 1863*

**Our November 9th Speaker**

**Mr. Codie Eash**  
**Operations Manager**

**Seminary Ridge Museum and Education Center**  
**Gettysburg, PA**

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

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



**NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE SO AS NOT TO CONFLICT WITH YOUR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY PLANS**

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.

### 2021-2022 Executive Board

**Mark Mello**— President

**Peter Rioux**—Vice President

**Martin Flinn**—Treasurer

**Jack Richer**—Board of Directors

**Larry Roy**—Board of Directors

**Bob Randall**—Librarian

**Recording Secretary**—open

**Facebook Page**—Dave Prentiss

**Langlois Book Award Chairman**—Peter Rioux

**Larry Monastesse, Speaker Scheduling**

**Don Brown, Digital Outreach**

**Bruce Baggaly**—Board of Directors Emeritus

**Bob Macfarlane**—Board of Directors Emeritus

**Website by Following Sea Design**

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

Cell # 508-542-7630

bobbylee76@comcast.net

\*\*\*\*\***SAVE THE DATE**\*\*\*\*\*

**NEW BEDFORD CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE HOLIDAY DINNER**

**DECEMBER 7, 2021 6:00 P.M.**

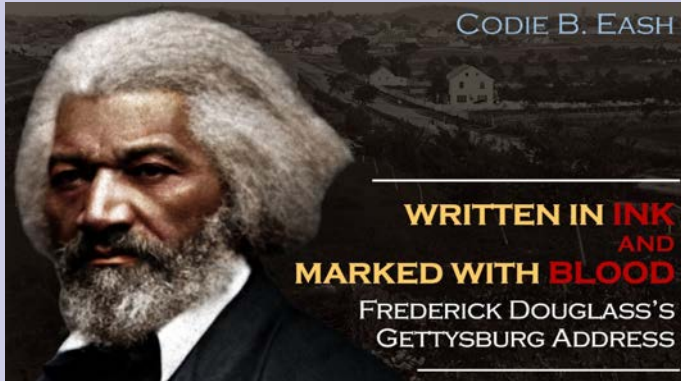
**CENTURY HOUSE, 107 SOUTH MAIN STREET, ACUSHNET, MA 02743**

**Please order your tickets this month.**

**MORE ABOUT THE NOVEMBER 9TH TOPIC WITH MR. CODIE EASH**

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

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.



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More info on Medal of Honor websites



**The Civil War November 1863.....**

- Nov 1... Grant's supply line near Chattanooga began to function well
- Nov 2... President Lincoln received an invitation to say "a few appropriate remarks" at the dedication of the new National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Pa
- Nov 5... President Lincoln wrote to General Banks, in command at Louisiana and Texas that he was disappointed that a constitutional government had not yet been set up in Louisiana.
- Nov 9... President Lincoln attended the theater and saw John Wilkes Booth in *The Marble Heart*. The President also wired Meade "Well Done" on the advances in West Virginia and Virginia
- Nov 12... President Lincoln attended the wedding of the daughter of the Federal Sec of the Treasury, Salmon Chase, Kate Chase and the Senator of Rhode Island, William Sprague
- Nov 17... The Federal siege of Knoxville, Tenn was underway, the partial siege of Chattanooga continued, and the bombardment of Charleston SC continued
- Nov 19... President Lincoln's Gettysburg address. The President felt that his remarks feel flat
- Nov 21... The President fell ill with varioloid, a mild form of smallpox
- Nov 25... The Battle of Missionary Ridge is underway. General Grant, Sherman, and Thomas on the scene.
- Nov 26... Battle of Mine Run begins, under Meade
- Nov 30... Bragg and his army are defeated in north-west Georgia and he submits his letter of resignation. It is accepted by Davis

**Medal of Honor recipients from the New Bedford area as featured at the Ft. Taber~Ft Rodman Military Museum**



**DUES REMINDER**




We are FIVE months into our membership drive for the 2021-2022 speaker season for the Civil War Round Table. Your membership dues should be paid by now and half of you have responded. Thank you. We need the rest of you to step up and support the Round Table. Please remit your dues to our Treasurer this month. Please see the **DUES AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL** page of the Flagbearer for details.

Not sure if you have paid your dues? Email me; - Bob Lytle [bobbylee76@comcast.net](mailto:bobbylee76@comcast.net)



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 The Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum will hold a "Bells for Peace" Ceremony Nov 11, Veterans Day. See the flyer below for details.

Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Historical Association, Inc.  
 1000C Rodney French Boulevard, New Bedford, MA 02744  
 (508) 994-3938 [www.forttaber.org](http://www.forttaber.org)



**Please join The Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Military Museum on Nov. 11, 2021 for our annual observance of Veterans/Armistice Day**

The Museum will be open from 10 AM to 4 PM  
 Coffee and Donuts will be available

At 11 AM the Museum will be participating in the "Bells of Peace" Ceremony, marking the end of World War 1

At 1 PM the Museum is proud to host the presentation  
**The Use of Animals in WWI**

Presented By: Joe Yukna of The Cape Cod Military Museum. Duration: 1hr

**NEWS FROM THE ROUND TABLE**

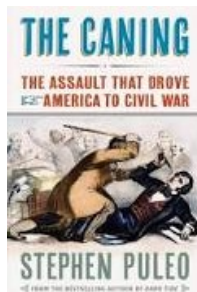
... The New Bedford Civil War Round Table is moving to a new and permanent meeting location. Beginning with the January meeting, 2022, we will meet at the Low Tide Yacht Club. This location is next door to our traditional meeting space at the Ft Taber~Ft Rodman Military Museum. The Yacht Club room offers us a larger facility, and you will feel comfortably spaced, not jammed together. The New Bedford Civil War Round Table is a growing organization and a larger meeting room was a necessity.

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...Olde Colony Civil War Round Table holds Annual Jubilee Dinner featuring a raffle of over sixty items. Guest



speaker was Steven Puleo, author of "The Canning: The Assault That Drove America to Civil War"



Round Tables from East Bridgewater, Central Mass, Rhode Island, Lynn, Boston, and of course, New Bedford were present.



NB Members L-R, P. Rioux, D. Brown, R. Bogusky, R. Lytle

I urge you to not delay in ordering your tickets to the New Bedford Civil War Round Table Annual Holiday Dinner Dec 7th, a Tuesday night at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$35.00 per person. Check page 6 of this issue of the Flagbearer.



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If Peter Rioux's essay on the Medal of Honor interest's you, check out this website.....





February 22, 2022

Megan Kate Nelson, Ph. D returns to the New Bedford Civil War Round Table.

She will introduce her latest book, "Saving Yellowstone"



Each year nearly four million people visit Yellowstone National Park, but few know the fascinating and complex historical context in which it was established. In late July 1871, the geologist-explorer Ferdinand Hayden led a team of scientists through a narrow canyon into Yellowstone Basin, entering one of the last unmapped places in the country. The survey's discoveries led to the passage of the Yellowstone Act in 1872, which created the first national park in the world.

Author Megan Kate Nelson examines the larger context of this American moment, illuminating Hayden's survey as a national project meant to give Americans a sense of achievement and unity in the wake of a destructive civil war.

Saving Yellowstone follows Hayden and two other protagonists in pursuit of their own agendas: Sitting Bull, a Lakota leader who asserted his peoples' claims to their homelands, and financier Jay Cooke, who wanted to secure his national reputation by building the Northern Pacific Railroad through the Great Northwest. Hayden, Cooke, and Sitting Bull staked their claims to Yellowstone at a critical moment in Reconstruction, when the Grant Administration and the 42nd Congress were testing the reach and the purpose of federal power across the nation.



A narrative of adventure and exploration, Saving Yellowstone is also a story of indigenous resistance, the expansive reach of railroad, photographic, and publishing technologies, and the struggles of Black southerners to bring racial terrorists to justice. It reveals how the early 1870's were a turning point in the nation's history, as white Americans ultimately abandoned the higher ideal of equality for all people creating a much more fragile and divided United States.

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January 25, 2022

Patrick Donovan, Vice President—Varnum Memorial Armory Museum, The Varnum Continentals, the Continental Militia, and the James Mitchell Varnum House



This will be an in-person meeting at the Low Tide Yacht Club, located next door to the Ft. Taber~Ft Rodman Military Museum, located in Ft. Taber Park, South end of New Bedford.

We will be making our first attempt at doing a video of this presentation and linking it to our Facebook page or to a You Tube Channel.

If you are an out of town member, we wish to have you included in our monthly meetings via the internet.

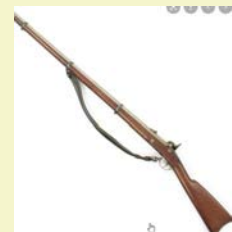


Varnum Memorial Armory Museum

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Do you have a Civil War artifact you would like to donate to the Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum in New Bedford? We are working to expand the Civil War display into a first class exhibition of items related to the American Civil War. If you would like to donate to the Museum, bring your artifact to the Museum office on Thursday or Sunday afternoon. Ask for Bob Lytle or Bill Niedzwiedz.



March 22, 2022

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, not by their Rebel enemies but by their fellow prisoners for the crimes of robbing and assaulting their own comrades.*



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May 24, 2022

Jamie Malanowski

*Commander Will Cushing, U.S. Navy, Daredevil Hero of the Civil War*

*Theodore Roosevelt said Will Cushing "comes next to Farragut on the hero roll of American naval history"*

*Come hear the story by noted author Jamie Malanowski next May, in person at the Low Tide Yacht Club.*



**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**





**THE NEW BEDFORD CIVIL WAR  
ROUND TABLE  
ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER**

**When?** December 7, 2021 Tuesday  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Where?** Century House  
107 South Main Street  
Acushnet, MA (508) 995-3221



**Tickets and reservations needed?**  
Yes. \$35.00 per person

**May I bring a guest? More than one?**  
Yes and Yes

The last time we held a Holiday dinner, it was at the Century House.

**Questions? Contact Bob Lytle [bobbylee76@comcast.net](mailto:bobbylee76@comcast.net) (508) 542-7630**

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**To purchase tickets, make your check payable to the *N B Civil War Round Table* and mail to Bob Lytle, 76 Shipyard Lane, So. Dartmouth, MA 02748**

.....  
**Name(s)**



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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

## The Origin of the Medal of Honor and the Civil War, by Peter Rioux



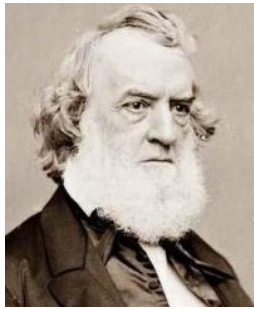
During the first year of the Civil War, Lieutenant General Winfield Scott, Commanding General of the Union Army, received a proposal to formally honor military personnel through the presentation of a Medal of Honor (MOH) in recognition of displays of valor during the war. General Scott denied this request. Previously, only a limited number of badges for military merit had been awarded to veterans of the Revolutionary War and certificates of merit for those who had served during the Mexican War. However, the Union's position, as advanced

by Navy Secretary Gideon Wells, would shortly change upon General Scott's retirement.



Winfield Scott

Senator James Grimes, Chairman of the Senate Naval Affairs Committee, introduced legislation to design and create Medals of Honor to be reserved for Naval enlisted men, seamen, landsmen, and Marines who had distinguished themselves by "gallantry in action and other seaman like qualities during the present war." President Lincoln signed this authorizing legislation on December 21, 1861.



Sec. Gideon Wells

In February 1862, a bill was subsequently introduced in the Senate by Senator Henry Wilson for a similar recognition to be awarded to Union army non-commissioned officers and privates who had also distinguished themselves "by their gallantry in action and other soldier like qualities during the present insurrection." This bill was also passed and was subsequently signed by President Lincoln in July 1862.



In March 1863, Congress passed legislation making the award, presented by the President in the name of Congress, a permanent decoration with Army officers becoming eligible. Naval officers were not eligible until 1916. Confederate soldiers were not eligible for this honor award but could be listed on the Confederate Roll of Honor.

During the Civil War, over 1,500 medals were bestowed (1,198 soldiers, 324 sailors or Marines, and 25 African American soldiers). The first of these latter recipients was Sergeant William H. Carney of New Bedford. Many awardees received their recognition long after the end of the war. Some of the noteworthy early recipients included:

Six surviving military members of "Andrew's Raiders", a group of volunteers organized in April 1862 by civilian scout James Andrews to steal the Confederate supply train, (named the "General", and destroy the railroad connection from Atlanta to Chattanooga in order to isolate the Confederacy's position in eastern Tennessee. The Raiders were forced to abandon the stolen train with many of the original members captured. Some avoided capture, while others were imprisoned and executed, including James Andrews, who was hanged as a Union spy. Other Raiders escaped from prison confinement or were released as part of a prisoner exchange with the Union. All but three



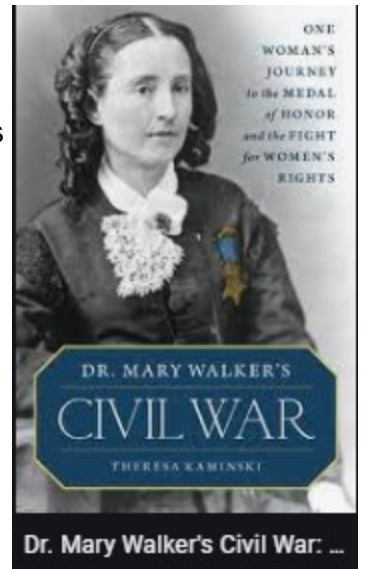
members of the Raiders were subsequently awarded the MOH.

The original six recipients were presented with their award by Secretary of War Stanton and, starting a tradition followed ever since, subsequently meet with the President.





Doctor Mary Walker, a civilian volunteer contract surgeon, served as a nurse who treated wounded Union soldiers during several major battles for two years and was subsequently held by the Confederacy in Richmond as a prisoner of war for several months before being released as part of a prisoner exchange. Her MOH Award was revoked, which she refused to relinquish, on the basis of not having seen actual combat experience. Her award was later restored by President Carter in 1977. Doctor Walker is the only woman to ever receive the MOH.



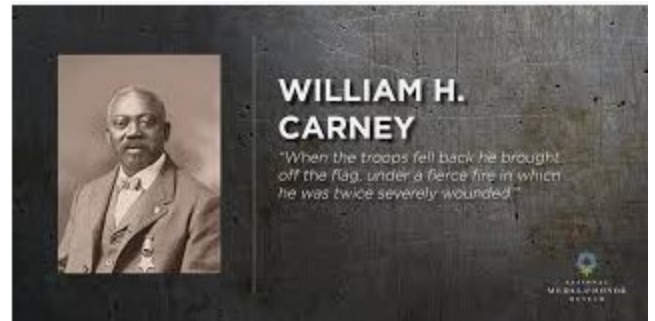
Leopold Karpeles

Leopold Karpeles served as a flagbearer during a Union attack at the Battle of the Wilderness. Over 25% of the Honor Medals were bestowed upon soldiers serving as weaponless flagbearers, since they were often viewed as targets for Confederate attack as they visibly represented the position of their Union regiment and its progress as it moved directly into the Confederate positions.

Many of the original Honor Medals were questionably awarded. For example, eligible soldiers and naval personnel could nominate themselves and submit award applications without witness verification of their action. Some MOHs were awarded long after the war's end, making it difficult to document the meritorious action. In addition, actions meriting award recognition were not clearly defined to distinguish heroic actions and ordinary good service. For instance, guard members at Lincoln's funeral originally received MOH Awards.

In 1897, in an effort to correct this situation and to ensure that MOHs were awarded to those who actually performed brave and heroic acts of valor, Federal regulations were established to ensure that the awards were presented for "gallantry and intrepidity." Applications were only considered if submitted by someone other than the one being nominated who had performed the cited heroic action. In addition, one or more eyewitnesses would be needed to testify to the heroic act: the application must be submitted within one year of the act; and the act must be greater than the discharge of a standard military duty. In 1916, proposed MOHs had to be reviewed by a five-member panel comprised of generals and approved by the President of the United States.

The integrity and intent of the recognition so honorably reflected in this award, starting with many of the first recipients for their service during the Civil War, remain true and steadfast to this day.



National Medal of Honor Museum ...



First African-American Medal of Honor ...

By Peter Rioux Vice President  
New Bedford Civil War Round  
Table

