

THE FLAGBEARER

Greater New Bedford Mass Civil War Round Table

Tuesday September 24, 2019 7:00 pm

at the Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum

1000c Rodney French Blvd. New Bedford

Open to the public , no fees, no reservations needed

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

We begin a new program year. We've made some improvements and changes.

We now have a Facebook page—find us at 'New Bedford Civil War Round Table'. We will post meeting info, speaker info, and items of general interest. Please click on "like" at our Facebook page, and don't forget to also click on and request "notifications" and receive reminders of Round Table posts.

The Flagbearer will continue, however, and we hope you will take the time to give us feedback as to what content you wish to see in the monthly notice.

We have three top quality speakers on tap for our Fall meetings. Please make a special effort to attend these meetings. Know of someone with an interest in history? Give them a call and invite them to our meeting.

Once again, Round Table member Peter Rioux has written an excellent essay for the Flagbearer.

September 24, 2019

John C. Rodrigue

Lawrence and Theresa Salameno Professor

Department of History

Stonehill College



It is July 4th, 1863. Lee has been defeated at Gettysburg on July 3rd, but his army is still intact and ready to fight. It is a hot mid summer day at 1:00 a.m. on the 4th. Rain is in the forecast. Rain that will come down in buckets and swell the Potomac River and possibly trap Lee on the north side at Falling Waters. Lee calls for cavalry commander General Imboden and issues the order to begin the retreat back to Winchester, Va. Imboden is to protect the wagon trains back through the Cash-town pass. The wagon train with the wounded and is nearly 34 miles long.

The Army of the Potomac's commander Maj. General George Gordon Meade does not know of Lee's plan, and is wondering if he should go on the offensive immediately without knowing if Lee is dug in awaiting his attack, or if Lee has other plans. Meade's orders clearly tell him to "cover Baltimore and Washington". Meade wires the War Department with details of the great victory at Gettysburg, indicating that he will go on the offensive as soon as he can determine Lee's plan. What else is Meade thinking about? He has Sedgewick's 6th Corps in reserve, 15,000 strong, rested, and ready, along with Sykes 5th Corps. However, Meade has lost Reynolds, Hancock, Gibbon, and Sickles, in the three days of fighting. These are some of his best fighting Corps commanders. Sykes and Sedgewick are not considered as among the best aggressive generals.

Did Meade deserve the rebuke of Lincoln? Was Meade's Gettysburg performance all that could be expected? He was appointed Commanding General three days before the battle.

Come to the September 4th meeting, at 7:00 p.m. Professor Rodrigue of Stonehill College will discuss Meade's after action strategy at Gettysburg.



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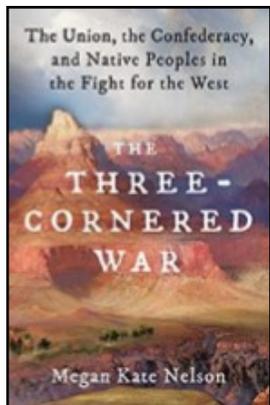
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Cell # 508-542-7630

bobbylee76@comcast.net

....A frequent speaker and friend of this Round Table , Dr. Megan Kate Nelson, will be kicking off her 2020 book tour with a visit to the New Bedford Civil War Round Table, on March 24, 2020. Her new book ,*Three Cornered War*, is set for a spring release; - Feb 11. This is her third book.



Here is an interesting event you may wish to consider on the Gettysburg battlefield.

On Nov 8-9 there will be a *Licensed Battlefield Guides of Gettysburg Fall Seminar*. "Gone, But Not Forgotten", a visit to locations, landmarks, and areas that used to be on the Battlefield, but are no longer there. Join them at 6:30 p.m. at the Gettysburg Heritage Center, 297 Steinwehr Ave for a welcoming reception. LBG Dave Weaver will conduct a presentation of WW1 at Gettysburg. On Sat they will meet at 8 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1061 York Road for a light breakfast before tours beginning at 8:30, 10:30, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Lunch will be at HGI's Garden Grill at noon. There will be a final wrap up at 4:30. The cost will be \$125. pp. Check their website for more details.

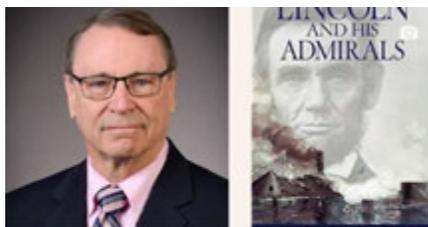
<https://gettysburgtourguides.org/2019-fall-seminar>

Name That General



Custer	Reynolds	Sickles
Sykes	Buford	Meade
Sedgwick	Doubleday	Webb
All were at Gettysburg		

We hope you will search us out on Facebook and "like" our page. Stay up-to-date on our upcoming events. Be sure you click on "notifications" so you will know when something new has been added.



NOV 19 Lincoln and His Admirals - Free Event and Open to All
Public · Hosted by New Bedford Civil War Roundtable



TUE, OCT 22 AT 7 PM The Trent Affair - Free Event and Open to All
Fort Taber Military Museum, 1000C Rodney French...
You like New Bedford Civil War Roundtable

Olde Colony Civil War Round Table

The Jubilee Committee of the Olde Colony Civil War Round Table has announce their plans for the Annual Dinner. It is scheduled for Thursday October 17, 2019 at Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 1125 Boston-Providence Turnpike (Route 1) Norwood, MA. The keynote speaker will be The Honorable Frank Williams, former Chief Justice of Rhode Island Supreme Court. His topic is titled Ulysses S. Grant as a Hero



Tickets are \$45.00 . Check the Olde Colony Civil War Round Table website for ticket information , or contact me and I will forward the ticket application info to you. Bob Lytle 508-542-07630

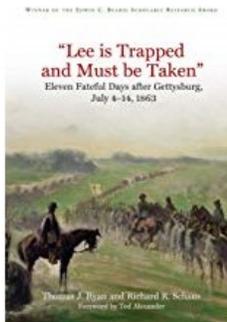
bobbylee76@comcast.net

New Books for your Library

...From Savis Beattie

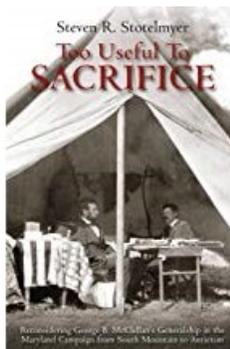
“Lee is Trapped and Must be Taken”: Eleven Fateful Days after Gettysburg, July 4–14, 1863

By Thomas J. Ryan and Richard R. Schaus



“Too Useful to Sacrifice” Reconsidering George B. McClellan’s Generalship in the Maryland Campaign from South Mountain to Antietam.

By Steven R. Stotelmyer



Spring /Fall 2019 Speaker/Meeting Schedule

October 22, 2019

David A. Kelly Jr

Associate Professor, Joint Maritime Operations

Program Manager, Graduate Degree Program

College of Distance Education

U.S. Naval War College

Newport R.I.



Topic: The capture of Confederate diplomates James Mason and John Slidell from the British ship “Trent”, an event that had the potential of bringing about war between the United States and Great Britain.

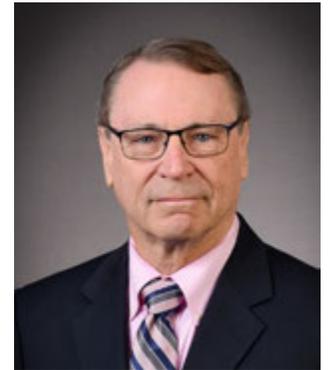
November 19, 2019

Craig L. Symonds

Professor of History Emeritus

U.S. Naval Academy

Chief Historian U.S.S. Monitor Center at the Mariners’ Museum in Newport News, Virginia



His topic: Based on his book “Lincoln and His Admirals”, winner of the Lincoln Prize. Mr. Symonds also is the recipient of the Samuel Eliot Morrison Award for Naval Literature.

December 10, 2019

Annual Holiday Dinner

Tuesday December 10, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

Century House 107 Main Street

Acushnet, MA 02743

Tickets will be available for sale in Oct and Nov

Al Smith of the Greater Boston Civil War Round Table has announce the details and schedule of his " Annual 5 Days in May " trip. I have included his flyer here for you to consider. This past May the New Bedford contingent totaled 12 of us. As always, Al provides a great guide and an even better value for your dollar spent..

Al Smith's 2020 5 Days in May Battlefield Tour

Join us for another fabulous trip to the many sites in the battles of the Shenandoah Valley. The dates selected for this great 5 day trip are Wednesday, May 13, 2020 to Sunday May 17, 2020. I have asked longtime friend and expert on the Valley Campaigns, Scott Patchan to take us back in time to visit the other sites involved in the Civil War. Come and see the beauty of the Shenandoah Valley when we will visit on our first day the New Market Hall of Valor Museum and battlefield, the Town of New Market, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Museum. Our second day will take us to the sites in the Battle of Piedmont, then on to the Battle of Mt. Crawford where Confederate General John Imboden was defeated which lead to the Confederate defeat at the Battle of Cedar Creek. A visit to the Piedmont Battlefield and the Port Republic Museum and then we can stroll down the quaint streets of Staunton, Va. to view the sites of this Civil War manufacturing town. In June of 1864 Union Major General David Hunter would lead an army of 10,000 troops and destroy the town. As we conclude our trip on day 3 we will be we will visit the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, the Court House Museum and Stonewall Jackson's Headquarters. As an added bonus to our journey we will get to see the site of the Court House used for the Trial of John Brown and the site of his execution in Charles Town, W. Va. We will also get the to view the sites of cavalry action Generals Sheridan, Custer and Fitz Lee.

Our accommodations for the trip will be at Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites in Winchester, Va. Our travel will be by air conditioned motor coach supplied by the McGinn Bus Co. Dinner for three nights will be at Piccadilly's Restaurant, Brewbaker's Restaurant and the Wayside Inn. Tips and gratuity, tour guide, and complimentary hot breakfast and donations are included.

A \$50.00 deposit will hold a reservation for this fantastic trip. Send your check payable to the Civil War Round Table of Greater Boston c/o Al Smith 11 Poplar St. Belmont, Ma. 02478. The total cost of this trip will be \$815.00 for a single room and \$630.00 each for a double room. If you have any questions please contact Al at 617 484 5613 or at ohjudyoh@yahoo.com

Have travel plans for November? Here is an interesting conference in Winchester, VA . Covers significant battles in Atlanta and the Shenandoah Valley that propelled Lincoln to victory in the 1864 election. To register call the Battlefield Foundation at 540-740-4545

Crossroads of History Conference

November 9 @ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Atlanta, the Valley, and the Crossroads of History:
The Battles and Leaders That Influenced Lincoln's Relection in 1864

A Civil War Conference Presented by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation



Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin -
The Inspiration and the Impact, by Peter Rioux, Member, New Bedford CWRT

Among all of the influences that promoted and propelled the emancipation effort and the ultimately tragic American experience in the conduct of the Civil War, most historians view a singular expression of literature composed by a lady of diminutive physical stature, but large moral influence, as the most significant. Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin. Until the publication of Uncle Tom's Cabin, no other work had so vividly described for American readers the injustice and inhumanity of slavery; a theme dramatically framed in a narrative depicting the sale of human souls, the unequivocal bondage and love of a mother for her child, the desire for the desperate attaining of freedom, and sacrificial death experienced at the hands of unconscionable human cruelty.



Harriet Beecher Stowe had several experiences that inspired her to ultimately create such a moving epic; experiences that she would incorporate into her novel and that would inspire the readers of a nation, and even more broadly, the world, to take emancipation action. In 1833, Stowe, along with her family, crossed the Ohio River into the slave state of Kentucky where she was able to see first hand a dehumanizing slave auction being conducted for the first time.

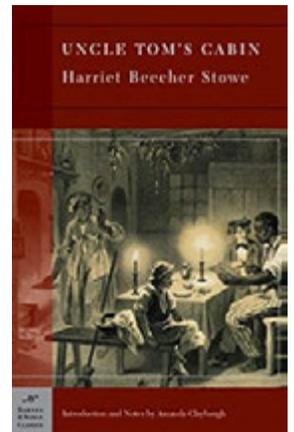
The death of her son Charley at the age of one and a half from cholera deeply instilled within her a tragic sense of loss and the severing of the bondage that only a mother could feel for her child. The later passage of the Fugitive Slave Law in 1850 and the required forceable return and re-enslavement of slaves and the separation of families prompted Harriet and her husband, while living in Brunswick, Maine, to assist escaping slaves. She personally sought out the stories and extensively read the accounts of many former slaves, including Frederick Douglass, in order to derive a stronger understanding of the actual slavery experience.

She confronted a dilemma. What could she do to affectively activate her sense of outrage recognizing that her ability to directly and politically influence the extinction of this unjust institution was severely limited? Her sister Isabella provided Harriet with the answer when she wrote to her that if she could use a pen as well as Harriet could, she would write a saga that would make this whole nation grippingly feel what "an accursed thing slavery is." Harriet responded that she was inspired to write something stating, "I will if I live."



The initial formulation of the plot for her novel, specifically the whipping death of Uncle Tom came to her one morning as she sat in her family Section 23 of the First Church in Brunswick, Maine. *(I personally sat in her seat in this church section attempting to re-imagine this tragic depiction that she vividly created.)*

In the novel, Tom, knowing of the escape of two women slaves, maintains his silence, despite the threat of punishment and death at the hands of slave master Simon Legree. Tom is willing to accept this fate even offering to save the body and soul of his tormentor as he pleads for him to repent. Legree, after an agonizingly brief moment of hesitation, continues to fatally smite Tom to the ground. In the face of this torture, Tom's sacrifice and forgiveness become Christ like in the presence of comforting fellow slaves. Tom beckons his last words to God, "Poor critters, I'd be willing to b'ar all I have if it'll only bring ye to Christ, O Lord! Give me these two more souls, I pray! That prayer was answered."



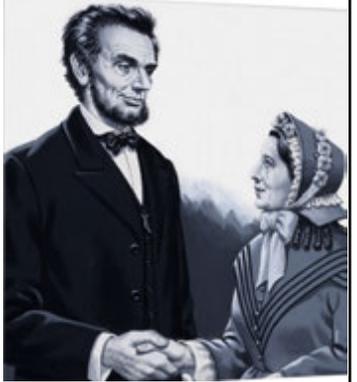
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Uncle Tom's Cabin was originally written as a series of vignettes in the National Era publication. However, since the readership reaction was so overwhelmingly enthusiastic, the publisher decided to issue the entire novel in two volume book editions. The reaction to the publication was even greater. Demand for the book was so strong that three paper mills, running twenty-four hours a day, were needed to produce ten thousand copies in the first week. Three hundred thousand copies were published in the first year (1852), five hundred thousand copies in the first five years, and three and a half million copies from 1852-1861. In England, one and one half million copies were sold in the first year, enabling Harriet to become the most prominent anti-slavery voice in the world. Copies of the book were passed from family member to member and friend to friend, unlike any previous work of American literature. In response to some criticism in the South that the novel was totally fictionalized and untruthful, she published a compilation of characters included in the novel and the non-fictionalized characters upon whom they were actually based.

The book's influence extended into the latter part of the Nineteenth Century. It was later translated into forty-two languages, and its total sales by the end of the Nineteenth Century ranked it as the second largest selling book after the Bible. Theater groups performing plays were developed, and the saga found further expression in the form of art, games, and song.

Since its original publication, the book's lasting impact has been universally recognized. Leo Tolstoy wrote that, "It is the highest form of art because it flowed from the love of God." Frederick Douglass expressed that, "Nothing could have better suited the moral and human requirements of the hour. Its effect was amazing, instantaneous, and universal."

The lasting message that Stowe wished for the novel was that slavery and Christianity could not co-exist without bringing on the wrath of God and that the true inspiration for this singularly influential Nineteenth Century work was that, "It was the hand of God that wrote this novel."



At the end of the saga, as new plantation owner George Shelby pays tribute to the noble life of Tom as he frees his own slaves, he says, "So, when you rejoice in your freedom, think that you owe it to that good old soul, and pay it back in kindness to his wife and children. Think of your freedom, every time you see UNCLE TOM'S CABIN, and let it be a memorial to follow his steps, and be as honest and faithful and Christian as he was."

The publication of Uncle Tom's Cabin continues today.
