

THE FLAGBEARER

Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table New Bedford, Massachusetts September 22, 2020, 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Meeting

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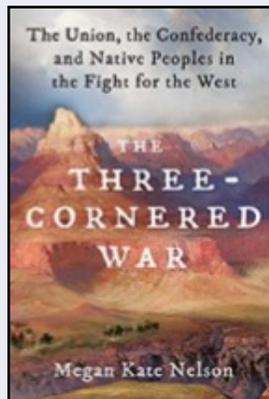


New Round Table President

Mark Mello

Zoom Meeting September 22, 2020 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Megan Kate Nelson returns to the New Bedford Civil War Round Table



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 . The Civil War Round Table is pleased to welcome her back to New Bedford.

In her newly released book she reveals the fascinating history of the Civil War in the American West. Exploring the connections among the Civil War, the Indian Wars, and western expansion. Megan reframes the era as one of national conflict—involving not just the North and South , but also the West.

Most of you ,by now, have downloaded the app, **Zoom**, and have become familiar with how to use it. As a result, you are ready for the Sept 22 program. You will need to register with me so that I can send a **Zoom** request/invite to your email address. Register with Bob Lytle , **bobbylee76@comcast.net**. Questions? Call me at 508-542-7630. If you are new to this technology, find a friend that can help you. Be sure you have an audio hook up if you are using your computer.

So that our Sept 22 meeting comes off with a minimum of hassle, we are going to have a Sept 8 7:00 p.m. Zoom meeting , a practice session with President Mark Mello giving a Round Table update. You will also need to register for this meeting , - same instruction as above. There are 8 of you without computers . Can you find a friend with a computer and arrange to buddy up?

2020 Executive Board

- Mark Mello— President
 - Martin Flinn—Treasurer
 - Jack Richer—Board of Directors
 - Peter Rioux—Board of Directors
 - Larry Roy—Board of Directors
 - Bob Randall—Librarian
 - Bruce Baggarly—Board of Directors Emeritus
 - Bob Macfarlane—Board of Directors Emeritus
 - Bob Lytle—Flagbearer/Programs
- Cell # 508-542-7630
 bobbylee76@comcast.net

Dear Friends,

I hope this note finds you healthy and safe in these trying times. I know we have all experienced a lot of change in our lives, but I hope this summer has provided you with an opportunity to relax and enjoy the warm weather while it lasts.

There is a lot that I would like to cover in this note, so forgive me if it seems a bit long. I just want to update you as to all the exciting progress the Board of Directors made at our last meeting, and all the things we have to look forward to as a group.

First and foremost, I would like to inform you of the retirement of our Vice President, Bruce Baggarly. Mr. Baggarly was a founding member of this group, and has held the Vice Presidency for years. Reverend Robert Macfarlane and Mr. Baggarly brought a Civil War Round Table to New Bedford and provided us all with an opportunity to come together and discuss the conflict which we feel so passionate about. Keeping the memory of Mr. Baggarly's ancestors and all those who fought in the American Civil War alive is a major part of what we do as a group. Mr. Baggarly, on behalf of the New Bedford Civil War Round Table, we thank you for your work and dedication to this great organization. The Board has presented Mr. Baggarly with a gift and the Board of Directors voted to award him the position of Board of Directors Emeritus.

As we look forward to our new speaker season commencing, things will look a little different. Given the guidelines and safety precautions implemented by the federal, state, and local governments, meeting in person is just not a possibility yet. From everything I am hearing, we most likely will not be able to resume meeting in person until after a vaccine has been developed and approved. This could mean that by the first of the year we may be able to resume in person meetings. But as with everything else in these crazy times, we'll just have to wait and see. I thank you for your patience and understanding on this matter.

However, just because we can't meet in person doesn't mean we can't meet at all. The Board has decided to move our meetings for the months of September, October, and November to an online platform. We will be using Zoom. This application provides us with a great opportunity to continue to listen to our top notch speakers, while ensuring all members safety. Bob Lytle has taken the lead on setting up the meetings and disseminating information to the group. I would like to thank Bob for all of his work coordinating with the speakers and membership. Bob does much of the behind the scenes work that keeps our organization running. Thanks, Bob for your help!

We will be having a special membership meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 7:00 PM. This meeting on Zoom will give the membership an opportunity to become acquainted with Zoom, and will also allow me to give you an update on all that is to come. We follow up that meeting with our regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 7:00 PM where Megan Kate Nelson will be speaking to us about the war in the west. We understand that this option is not perfect, but we feel it is the best route to take.

For those who may not have access to Zoom, we have created a YouTube page. We will now be filming all of our meetings (both virtual and in person) and posting those to our YouTube page. This will allow members who cannot attend our meetings to still view them online.

The Board has also decided to pro-rate dues for this year. Given the circumstances and the fact that we did miss three meetings at the close of last year, individual membership has been reduced to \$15 per person and \$20 for a family for the 2020 - 2021 season. We understand these have been economically trying times for many so if you have any concerns about dues payments, please contact me directly.

Finally, the Board made great progress on new bylaws for our organization. Peter Rioux has been working tirelessly to make sense of pre-existing documents and other Round Table bylaws to create a document which outlines how our group is to function into the future. The Board will be presenting his work to the membership in 2021. Thank you Peter for all your hard work!

If you have any questions or concerns about anything, don't hesitate to contact me. We hope that our temporary fix of moving our group to Zoom will allow us to continue to meet as a group until we return to normalcy.

I am your obedient servant,

....News from the Round Table

... The Ft Taber~Ft Rodman Military Museum has reopened. Volunteers will welcome you Tuesday through Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 P.M.

...Bill Neidzwiedz is the new President of the Ft Taber~Ft Rodman Historical Society and Museum, replacing Joe Langlois.

...The Museum could use your help as a volunteer, one day a week for three hours , 1 to 4 pm, greeting visitors at the door. You will team up with someone experienced and able to unlock and lock up the Museum. Interested? Call Bob Lytle 508-542-7630

...Could you help those (8 members) who do not have computers. We wish them to participate in the upcoming Zoom meetings. Would you consider inviting them to your home for the meetings, Sept 8 and Sept 22 ?

..We have an elderly member of our Round Table that cares for 2 cemetery headstones , a veteran and wife, but can no longer manage. Would you consider stepping in? It's the occasional weeding and cleanup of the headstones at a local cemetery. If you can do this and are willing , call Bob Lytle 508-542-7630

...One of the two main rooms at the Ft Taber~Ft Rodman Military Museum will be renamed in the memory of Joe Langlois. The New Bedford Civil War Round Table will contribute to the Plaque and participate in the ceremony. The ceremony date will be announced in the near future.

...Please continue to follow the Round Table on Facebook, we work at keeping it current.

New Book Released

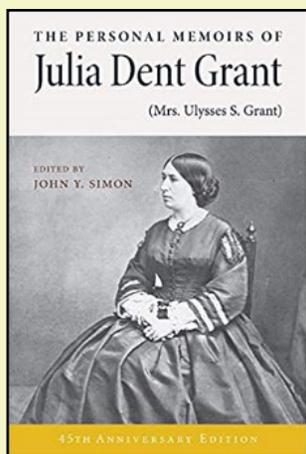
Julia Grant's Memoir's: The 45th Anniversary Edition

Edited by John Y. Simon.
Southern Illinois University Press

A book loaded with wonderful anecdotes from the lives of Julia and Ulysses Grant

She was the first First Lady to write a memoir

Covers their 37 year marriage



.....The Civil War timeline August–Sept 1861

After the defeat at Manassas Junction on July 21, Maj. General George B. McClellan was officially put in command of Federal Division of the Potomac, replacing the defeated Maj. Gen'l McDowell.

Aug 3 ...Congress passes the first national income tax measure

Aug 3...At Ft Monroe, Gen'l Butler banned the sale of intoxicating liquors, but soldiers found ways of evading the order. Liquor was found in the gun barrels of pickets and in hair oil bottles

Aug 10... Battle of Wilson's Creek. A significant battle, the Confederates are victorious. Union General Lyon is killed, the Union troops retreat to Rolla, Mo.

Aug 10... President Lincoln calls on General in Chief Scott and asks for less friction between him and the youthful George B. McClellan.

Aug 16... President Lincoln proclaimed the inhabitants of the Confederate States " are in a state of insurrection against the United States, and that all commercial intercourse" with certain exceptions, between loyal and rebellious states was now unlawful. Pro-secessionist or peace meetings in the north were broken up.

Aug 30... Maj. Gen'l John Fremont issued his famous unauthorized emancipation proclamation. The cry against it was immediate, and Pres. Lincoln called it dictatorial. The northern press opposed this order, but abolitionists rejoiced.

Sep 6... Gen' Grant captures Paducah, Ky his first major victory. I've been to Paducah, not much there to capture.

Sep 17... The legislature at Maryland decided not to meet at Frederick, after the arrest of several of their members

Sep 25... President Lincoln's secretary, John G. Nicolay, purchased a sofa for Lincoln's office. He paid \$24.

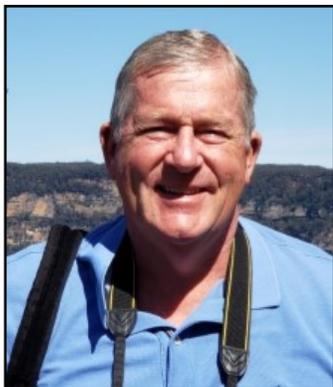
Sep 30... The month came to a quiet end. Lincoln still had the Gen'l Lyon problem to handle in St. Louis, the nation's impatience for action in Virginia, and a need to stabilize the situation in Pro-Union West Virginia

Upcoming Fall Speakers

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" October 27th



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 will Zoom with us November 17th.

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: _____

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

Arlington National Cemetery - The Origin of a Hallowed Ground

"I could stay here forever."

Commented President John F. Kennedy, March 3, 1963, as he stood at the summit of Arlington Cemetery after completing a tour of Arlington House overlooking the vista of Washington, D.C. and the Potomac.



It was never originally intended to become a war torn nation's sacred place and hallowed ground. But by the later part of America's tragic Civil War, it served as the final resting place for the Union's deceased; a place of honor and reverence in tribute for their supreme sacrifice which they offered to preserve the unity of a nation.

Mary Custis Lee had inherited the eleven- hundred acre property from her father, George Washington Parke Custis, upon his death in 1857. He was the grandson of Martha Washington. He had originally built the Arlington House in 1802 as a tribute to his step grandfather, George Washington, in order to preserve various valued artifacts once owned by the nation's first president. Mary Custis married Robert E. Lee in 1831, and they resided together in the house for the next thirty years until the outbreak of the Civil War.



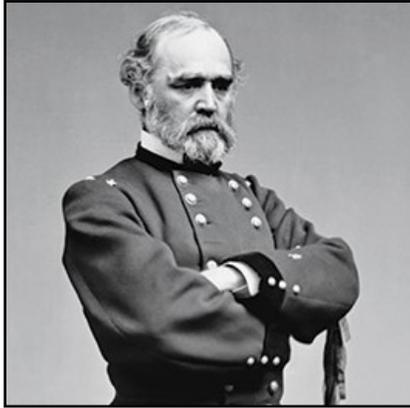
After Lee left this plantation estate to assume military responsibility with the Confederacy, Lee, recognizing his inability to defend the property, pleaded with his wife to abandon the mansion in May 1861, writing, "You have to move and go to some point of safety because war is inevitable."

The Union immediately seized the property, initially using it as a military encampment and pauper's cemetery for indigent Union soldiers. Union officers occupied the Arlington House itself. In early 1863, the property was used to accommodate fleeing slaves in the aftermath of the signing and execution of the Emancipation Proclamation and for deceased members of the U.S. Black Troops. The Union also established a Freedman's Village, complete with houses, schools, and churches creating a community of fifteen hundred. This community then served as a home for three generations of former slaves.

As the tragic Union losses continued longer and to a far greater extent than originally anticipated, especially during the Overland Campaign in 1864 with its enormously high casualty rate, the Union recognized that existing cemetery facilities, such as Soldiers Home, were inadequate to meet the internment needs of the deceased who had been recovered from other battle fields and Union hospitals.

Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs was appointed by Secretary Stanton to supervise this extensive burial process at Arlington. Meigs was a trained civil engineer graduating fifth in his West Point class of 1836 and had supervised such pre-war construction projects as fort re-building, navigational improvements to the Mississippi River, U.S. Capitol Dome, Washington, D.C. Aqueduct, and the General Post Office building in Washington. As Quartermaster, he replaced Joseph Johnston, who had resigned to serve the Confederacy, and supervised the equipment and supply fitting for both Generals Grant and Sherman.

The original volume of 2,100 Union deceased were buried in the lower two hundred acre cemetery area. The first of these was William Christman, who had died of an infectious disease. Original gravesite locations for these deceased were buried without formal ceremony, with wooden headstones simply painted white with black lettering indicating the deceased's name (if known), burial date, company, and the Union shield. Almost half had died of infectious diseases.



General Meigs, however, was dissatisfied with the original lower cemetery location for these burials and vigorously sought the approval of Secretary Stanton to re-inter them in the upper area near the Arlington House, adjacent to Mary Custis' flower garden. Meigs was intensely motivated in this effort by his hatred of and desire to humiliate General Lee, directly blaming him for his treason to the Union and responsibility for the war time death of his own son, John Rodger Meigs, who was killed at the Battle of

Swift Run Gap in October 1864.

Meigs also wanted to prevent any re-occupancy of the Arlington House by the Lee family after the war due to the positioning of the extensive cemetery surrounding the house.

Arlington was officially designated as a national cemetery in June 1864. Many Union dead were subsequently transferred to Arlington after the end of the war. During the aftermath of the war, Meigs continued to supervise the additional monument construction at Arlington, including an amphitheater, meeting facility, and a temple of honor.



The Lee family made an effort to re-take possession of the property after the war, successfully appealing to the court on the basis of a wrongful property taking by the Union and then ultimately settling for the transfer of the property to the Union for the amount of \$150,000.

Montgomery Meigs died in 1892 at the age of 75 and after a ceremony with an honor guard of 150, he was buried at Arlington at a gravesite along lower Meigs Drive. Other Union dead residing at Arlington include Lieutenant General Arthur MacArthur and General Philip Sheridan. As many other Union veterans subsequently passed away, their families sought the approval of the Federal Government to lay them at Arlington. In 1914, a burial location was designated for 16,000 Confederate veterans.

Arlington National Cemetery now consists of 624 acres and serves as the final resting place for over 400,000 members of this country's military and their spouses. Over seven million visitors travel to this hallowed ground location each year to honor them.

Essay by Peter Rioux, New Bedford Civil War Round Table

