

# THE FLAGBEARER

## Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table New Bedford, Massachusetts September 28, 2021, 7:00 p.m. ZOOM Meeting

This issue of the Flagbearer

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- ...Pulitzer Prize first runner up in history, Dr. Megan Kate Nelson, returns in 2022 with her latest book "Saving Yellowstone"

September 28, 2021

Historian, author, and battlefield guide—  
James A. Hessler will be with us Sept 28, via Zoom. His topic, Gettysburg's Peach Orchard

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James A. 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.



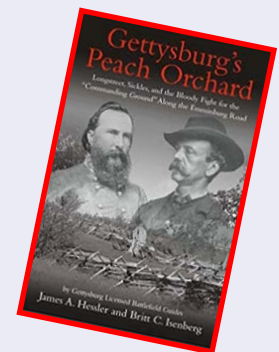
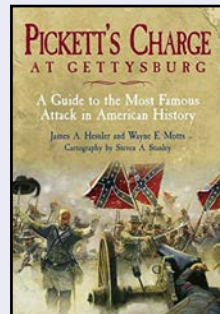
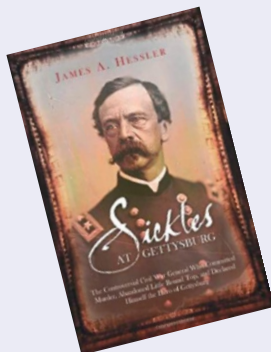
James A. Hessler

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Cell # 508-542-7630

bobbylee76@comcast.net



Tune in "The Battle of Gettysburg" podcast, hosted by historians and Licensed Battlefield Guides Jim Hessler and Eric Linblade every month and sometimes twice a month.

Message from Mark Mello, President, The New Bedford Civil War Round Table

Dear Friends in the Civil War,

*It was great seeing all of you last month at our summer picnic. After what has been a long year and a half for all of us, it was fantastic to see all of you in person once again. I want to take this moment to echo what I said to the group at the picnic: thank you all so much for your continued support of the group!*

*In a time when most Civil War Round Tables in our area are struggling, we are flourishing. We have one of the largest memberships in our area. It is a testament to your passion for the American Civil War. For your continued support of our organization, I say thank you.*

*As the calendar has now turned to September, we have a new year of top-notch speakers to look forward to. We will continue to meet virtually on Zoom for September, October, and November, but we will return to in person meetings after the first of the year.*

*I also want to thank all those who offered their services as board members this year. We are still looking for a Secretary. If you are interested in the position, I would be forever grateful to you.*

*Also, with the new speaker season, I remind you that it's time to pay our membership dues. These dues are vital part in allowing us to function as a group. Thank you in advance for your continued support.*

*I look forward to seeing all of you (virtually) later this month.*

Your obedient servant,

Mark Mello

President

New Bedford Civil War Round Table

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 now 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 offers us a larger room, more space, and you should feel somewhat more at ease not jammed together. We are a growing organization and a larger meeting room was a necessity.

...Please mark your calendar now for the **Annual Holiday Dinner at the Century House.** The date is set for December 7, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. We will provide a reservation form in a future Flagbearer.

...The summer BBQ picnic at the Low Tide Yacht Club was a success. **We had 54 of you in attendance**, - a great turnout. We enjoyed a wonderful catered summer picnic and conducted a short but important business meeting. **Larry Roy entertained us** as he always does with patriotic music. It was good to see all of you. Our next in-person gathering will be the December Holiday dinner.

... **Larry Monastesse takes over the scheduling of monthly speakers for the Round Table.** We thank Larry for taking on this task. We are currently scheduled with speakers through the end of the year, plus speakers for February, March, and May, 2022.

...**Don Brown fills a new Board position**, - **Digital Outreach.** We look to the future with all that it holds, - digitally, i.e. Zoom, You Tube Live, membership, community outreach, and so on. Ideally, we would like our in-person meetings next year to be made available on You Tube or Facebook. We have a Zoom following of out-of-town folks that cannot be present for Round Table meeting in person.

...Reminder to the membership. **Please remit your dues this month** to our Treasurer. The dues form and address of our Treasurer is on the last page of the Flagbearer.

...**Would you like to be a contributor to the Flagbearer?** Why not try your hand at creating an essay on a topic that interests you, and therefore may interest our membership. As a suggestion, start with researching a general that you like, or a battle of interest. Do you have a letter from a Civil War ancestor filed away that we could publish? Or a picture? **Our publishing deadline is the 10th of each month. Send your contribution to Bob Lytle** [bobbylee76@comcast.net](mailto:bobbylee76@comcast.net)

...**Our September, October, and November meetings will be Zoom meetings.** I will be using the Zoom list from last April and May. Most you are on the list already, but if you have a doubt, **email me. Bob Lytle**

You will find our September speaker to be first class in presentation and knowledge. Jim Hessler has a wonderful podcast well worth tuning in.

...Our 'Friend of the Round Table', Col. Kevin J. Weddle, Ph.D., Professor of Military Theory and Strategy at the U.S. Army War College, in Carlisle, PA, has a new book published by Oxford University Press; "The Compleat Victory" Saratoga and The American Revolution. Kevin has two presentations to our Round Table in the past three years. He recently appeared on CSpan3 Book and discussed the Saratoga campaign. **If there was sufficient interest I am sure he would be open to a Zoom meeting with the New Bedford Civil War Round Table. While not Civil War material , it is nonetheless very interesting history.** Col. Weddle was recently appointed the Elihu Root Chair of Military Studies at the Army War College. Root was the Secretary of War when the Army War College was established in 1901 and is considered the father of the institution. **The "Compleat Victory: Saratoga and the American Revolution" won the US Army War College's Excellence-in-Scholarship award, book category, also known as the "Madigan Award".**



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...The Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum at Ft Taber Park , in the south end of New Bedford, is looking for meet and greet volunteer help. The Museum is open from 1:00 to 4:00 Weds thru Sunday. It does lack sufficient volunteers to open Monday and Tuesday. Three to four volunteers are needed each day. You would be paired with an experienced volunteer. And you need not have served in the Military. Interested? Call Bob Lytle at 508-542-7630. Or stop by the Museum on any Thursday afternoon and I will answer any questions you may have.



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Tough Civil War Trivia questions. Email me the answers. [bobbylee76@comcast.net](mailto:bobbylee76@comcast.net)

Question #1

The gross sales amount for Grant's memoirs. Was it \$500,000, \$1,500,000, \$750,000, or \$1,000,000

Question #2

General John Bell Hood and his wife died of yellow fever in New Orleans during the epidemic of 1878-79, as did his oldest daughter, Lydia, leaving 10 destitute orphan children. What General stepped in and had Hood's memoirs published, which supported and saved the family?

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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Mark your calendar; *The New Bedford Civil War Round Table* will showcase yet another great speaker on October 26, 2021

## Introducing Ron Coddington

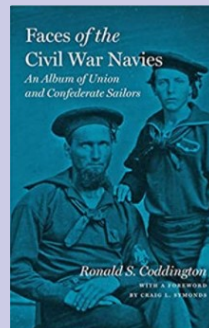
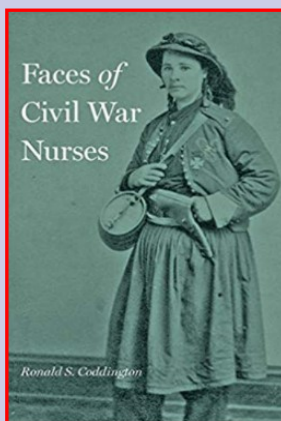
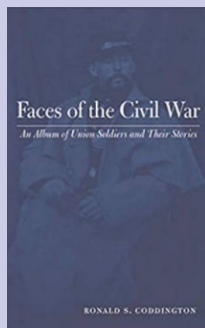
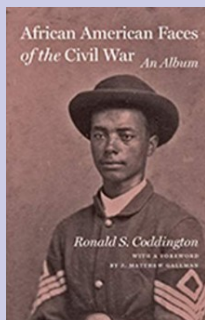
Historian, author, and guide

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*.



Ronald S. Coddington



### DONATE ARTIFACTS TO THE MUSEUM?

Do you have Civil War artifacts in the attic that need a new home? The Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum is looking to expand its Civil War display of artifacts ; - uniforms, kepis, belts, buttons, pouches, tools, accoutrements, letters, photos, post cards, bullets, weaponry, bayonets, and so on. Do you have something? We will accession it into the Museum computer system, give you proper credit for the displayed item, and put a value of it if we can for insurance and tax purposes. Simply bring your item to the Museum any Thursday or Sunday afternoon, and we will log your item into the collection. Ask for Bill Niedzwiedz or Bob Lytle.



Our largest artifact—M4 Sherman tank

Your family legacy will live on at the Military Museum where

**EVERY DAY IS VETERAN'S DAY**

**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**



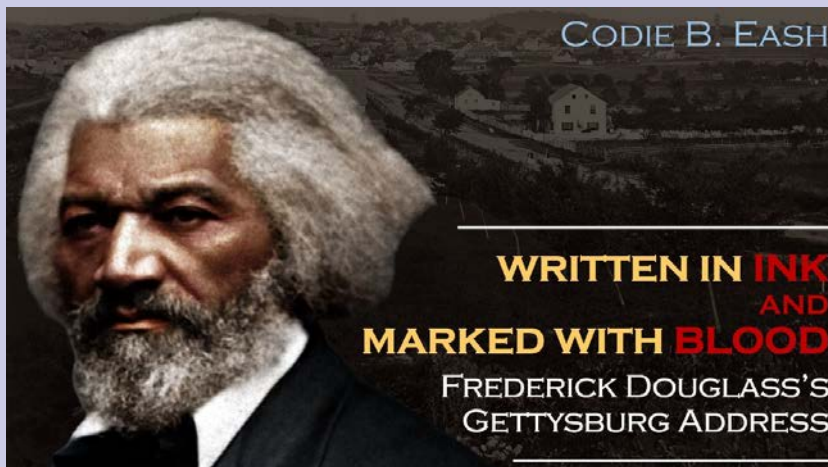
*Mr. Codie Eash*

*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.*

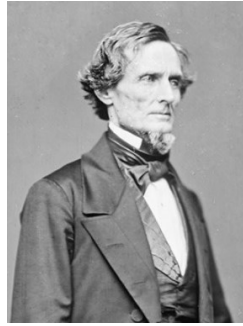


## Jefferson Davis Life in the War's Aftermath, by Peter Rioux

He had been chosen to lead a confederacy of eleven states in a secession from, and a rebellion against, the Union; an effort that was ultimately concluded in defeat and failure.

According to many military historians, Jefferson Davis's own leadership weaknesses contributed to this Confederate outcome. He has been criticized for seldom making an effort to resolve differences among commanders; not relieving certain commanders when warranted; limited political instincts; consistently and stubbornly insisting on the correctness of his positions; feeling no need to mold public opinion; possessing little verbal inspirational skills; seldom visiting troops; and seeing limited need to publicly explain his positions.

And, in the aftermath of this failed military effort, Jefferson Davis's life continued to be characterized by personal, professional, and financial failures and disappointments.



### His Capture

In early April 1865, and being warned of the prospective fall of Richmond, Jefferson Davis fled from the Confederate capital in an attempt to reach safety in Florida and possibly further escape to Cuba to plan a Confederate resurgence. The Union had offered a \$100,000 award for Davis's capture.

However, his escape plan failed when he was captured by pursuing Union troops in May 10, 1865, in Irwinville, Georgia, while walking with his wife, Varina, to a nearby creek to obtain water. His wife's intercession prevented Union troops from firing upon Davis. Upon his capture, Davis proclaimed that "God's will shall be done." He was taken to Macon, Georgia, under heavy Union guard and then to Fort Monroe, Virginia, where he was imprisoned under strict limitations.

### His Imprisonment

During the initial phase of his Fort Monroe confinement in a subterranean, dark, converted gun room, the fifty-nine year old former Confederate President was allowed no visitors, books, except for a Bible,

assigned a constant guard watch, and was required to wear ankle manacles (which Secretary of War Stanton subsequently ordered removed). At



the time, the New York Herald wrote that "No more will Jefferson Davis be known among masses of men. He is buried alive." While confined under these severe physical and psychological restrictions, Davis's health deteriorated.

However, after his initial two month confinement, prison officials, receiving appeals from influential Union supporters objecting to the harsh conditions imposed on Davis, adopted a more lenient policy. He was moved from his assigned, dark cell to the second floor of the officers' quarters. As a result, his diet improved, and he was allowed to receive limited visitors by December 1865. These visitors included his Richmond minister, his attorney, and his wife Varina. He was provided access to newspapers and the prison library. Varina was later allowed to live with him during his Fort Monroe confinement.

### His Release

In 1867, Davis was released after prominent northerners, such as Horace Greeley and Cornelius Vanderbilt, raised the \$100,000 bail amount. In May 1867, after a two year imprisonment, Davis was taken for trial to Richmond, remanded to military authority, and was enthusiastically greeted by cheering Confederate supporters as he walked from the Richmond wharf to the Spotswood Hotel. He stayed in the same room as he had when he first arrived in Richmond as Confederate President six years earlier. He was the last Confederate official to be released from post war confinement.

After a series of trial postponements, continuations, and schedule extensions through 1868, a growing Union desire for reunification and national reconciliation, the trial was never conducted. President Johnson pardoned him on December 25, 1868, even though Davis wanted a trial to defiantly contest all charges. The Federal Court dismissed the charges in February 1869.

### His Post War Financial Challenges

With his legal challenges ultimately resolved, Davis faced severe financial difficulties with few personal funds in which to invest. He was unable to successfully sell his interest in previously invested Canadian mines and failed to sell land in Arkansas that he had purchased before the outbreak of the war. He subsequently experienced failed attempts to secure a series of employment opportunities that he had sought through extensive travels in an attempt to address these financial difficulties. He unsuccessfully sought a mercantile position in England. He was rejected for a position with the Royal Insurance Company in England due to northern opposition to him in the United States. In respect to some positions where his services had been sought, he refused them, primarily due to what he considered to be insultingly, low salary offers – the Presidency of Texas A and M University, the head of Randolph Macon Academy, and the University of the South.

However, in early 1869, he did accept a position as President of the parent company of the Carolina Life Insurance Company with the responsibility of traveling to Baltimore and the Gulf States to sell insurance policies. Several former Confederate commanders, such as Braxton Bragg, were employed by this company. After the failure of the insurance company to pay coverage obligations to policy holders, the company was transferred to a locally owned company, prompting Davis to resign in 1873. He subsequently sought and was offered a position as President of the Mississippi Valley Society, a European investment company based in New Orleans. However, as a result of Davis's investigation, he found this company to be substantially deficient in financial resources and did not pursue this opportunity any further.

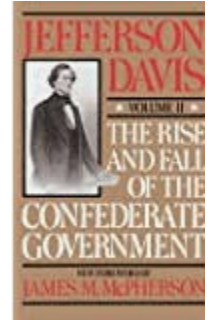
### Beauvoir And His Memoirs

In the mid 1870's. Davis's interest turn to the writing of his memoirs. Returning to the Mississippi Gulf Coast and needing a location in which to reside and prepare this work, a strong Confederate supporter and admirer of Davis, Sarah Dorsey, offered him the use of a beautiful cottage, part of her inherited estate at Beauvoir. Varina, despite her initial objections and suspicions of Sarah Dorsey, decided to join Davis, assisting in the memoirs and eventually becoming close friends with Sarah.



Initially, his original draft was criticized by his publisher as being too much of a constitutionally based justification for the secession of the Confederacy, a posi-

tion Davis would continue to strongly promulgate throughout the remainder of his life. After employing his military advisor, William Walthall, to assist in gathering extensive documents and correspondence and edit the draft, Davis revised the text to include a more proved to be of greater interest to readers. This two volume effort was completed after a four year effort entitled The Rise and Fall of the extensive narrative of his management of the Confederate war effort, which Confederate Government.



In volume one, Davis continued to reiterate the constitutional basis for the Confederacy's action, an expression of patriotism and its legitimacy. He also promoted his view that slavery differences were not a cause of the conflict. Rather, he blamed the Union for prosecuting a destructive, uncivilized war of aggression upon the South and imposing an aggressive peace. He refused to criticize the military leadership of Generals Beauregard and Johnston, despite their criticism of him in their own memoirs, even though Davis had been critical of them in his own private letters he had written during the war. The book sold reasonably well at twenty-three thousand copies over the following nine year period. However, Davis seldom traveled to promote the book on a speaking tour.

In 1878, his family's legal dispute over the family farm at Brierfield was resolved in Davis's favor. The property

subsequently suffered severe flooding problems from the Mississippi



River, detrimentally affecting its ability to grow crops and sustain itself economically.

In respect to Beauvoir, Sarah Dorsey granted ownership of the estate to Davis for a three year annual payment of fifty-five hundred dollars with no down payment. She subsequently decided to will the estate, valued at fifty thousand dollars, to Davis in the event of her preceding death, an event which did occur.

## His Final Activities

In 1882, Davis and Varina settled in Beauvoir and despite continuing financial difficulties, he refused to accept financial assistance that friends had raised for him. Davis's role as a living symbol of the South's "lost cause" and its associated suffering re-emerged and his popularity increased as a result.

He was often invited to deliver commencement and Confederate reunion speeches and talks and to receive honors, some of which he attended, despite experiencing continuously declining health. He also had a strong desire to avoid confrontations with critical former Confederate commanders. He traveled to Atlanta and Montgomery for dedication ceremonies, where he was enthusiastically greeted and where he reconciled with James Longstreet. While in Macon, Georgia, he stated that "We are now at peace, and I trust will remain so."

He continued to assertively advance his long held positions regarding the constitutional justification for Confederate secession, praised Confederate soldiers for courageously opposing larger Union numbers, the inherent superiority of the white race, the benevolent effect of slavery upon the black race, the constitutional basis of states' rights, and his opposition to Union led Reconstruction. In an effort to further advance these views, he wrote articles for the North American Review. He also wrote a second book entitled A Short History of the Confederate States of America, and he started to dictate another volume of his memoirs.

In the late 1880's, his focus became the economic development of his home Mississippi County, where he strongly advanced his view that economic transformation of this region would not be achieved by clinging to the past. In one of his last speeches that he delivered, he said that the "Past is dead. Let us bury its dead, its hopes and aspirations. Before you lies the future – a future full of golden promise, expanding national glory, before which all the world shall stand amazed." Then he concluded with a speech in Mississippi City, where he expressed a reunification message - "Let me beseech you to lay aside all rancor, all bitter sectional feelings, and to make your places in the ranks of those who will bring about a consummation devoted to be wished – a reunited country."

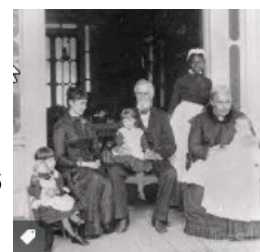


While visiting New Orleans in 1889, his battle with chronic illnesses finally overcame him. He experienced an acute attack of bronchitis and malaria, while traveling by steamboat. These afflictions took his life at the age of 81 after two weeks on December 6, 1889. He died with his wife by his side.



A large funeral was held in New Orleans five days later. One hundred thousand mourners attended, and eight Southern governors served as pallbearers. He was initially buried near the Tomb of Northern Virginia. Four years later, his wife decided that he was to be subsequently transferred to Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia, for his final

burial, after laying in state at the Virginia State Capitol. Memorial services were held throughout the South. A life-sized statue of Davis was erected near his tomb in 1896 and dedicated in June of 1907.



Jefferson Davis and Family ...

A life characterized by the defeat of a military effort to achieve secession, postwar personal and financial challenges and hardships, continuing chronic illnesses, and personal tragedies (i.e. the death of his wife after four



years of marriage, and the preceding deaths of all four of his sons at early ages), and a rigidly held adherence to divisively tragic, political, and racial convictions had come to an end.

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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 the 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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