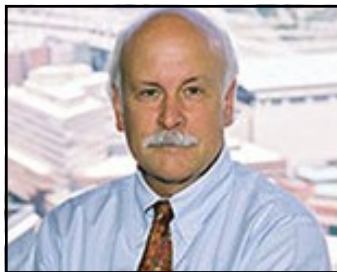




THE FLAGBEARER

Future Speakers



In March, 2016 we welcome writer James Conroy. His book, *Our One Common Country*, tells the story of Abraham Lincoln's presidential peace mission. His book is a 2015 Finalist for the prestigious Gilder-Lehrman Lincoln Prize

April, 2016 brings us Professor John C. Rodrique, from Stonehill

College. He will feature his book, *Lincoln and Reconstruction*. Professor Rodrique earned his B.A., History from Rutgers University, his



M.A., History from Columbia University, and his Ph.D., History from Emory University. His teaching and research interests focus on nineteenth-century United States history, specifically the Civil War and Reconstruction era, slavery and emancipation, the U.S. South, and African-American history. He is currently working on a long-term project on the southern planters after the war.

Do you have a request for a topic or specific speaker? Any suggestions?

Please tell me....Bob Lytle
508-542-7630



Greater New Bedford Civil War Round Table

Tuesday November 17*, 2015 7:00 Meeting

@ Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum

***-NOTE DATE CHANGE-**



Megan Kate Nelson is a writer, historian, and cultural critic. Based in Lincoln, Massachusetts, she has written for the *New York Times Disunion Blog*, *JSTOR Daily*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and *Civil War Times*. She earned her BA in History and Literature from Harvard University and her PhD in American Studies from the University of Iowa, and has taught at Texas Tech University, Cal State Fullerton, Harvard, and Brown University. She has written two books—*Ruin Nation: Destruction and The American Civil War (2012)*, and *Trembling Earth: A Cultural History of the Okefenokee Swamp (2005)*, and is working on a third, *Path of the Dead Man: How the West was Won— and Lost—during the American Civil War*. This third book is our presentation for **Nov 17**. **Please note we are having our meeting earlier than normal due to the obvious schedule conflict with Thanksgiving week.**



MEGAN KATE NELSON

News from the New Bedford Civil War Round Table... We had a great turnout from our members for the October meeting;- approx 36 of you. Thank you to all that attended. Our speaker Mark Dunkelman, President of the Civil War Round Table in Providence, RI, did a fantastic job. Well done Mark, and thank you again.

Reservations for our **Holiday Dinner** at Me and Ed's **Dec 15th**, are running strong. This is shaping up to be a great evening. We plan to have a good book raffle, Larry Roy with his harmonica, and perhaps a 20 minute, mini talk on a civil war topic. Please send in your reservation to me soon.

Please remember that this is your Round Table—any suggestions for improvement are welcomed.....Bob

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ROUND TABLE SPEAKERS COMING TO NEW BEDFORD

We began our 2015-2016 season with a colorful presentation by Mark Mello. His topic was the life of the average Union soldier; what he wore, carried, cooked, and ate. Mark discussed how his unit was organized, and what his life was like. If you wish to have Mark present to your organization; school, library, seniors group, veterans group, etc contact him or myself.

Mark will return next February with a new subject, - the battle for Devil's Den, July 2, 1863.



John Foskett is our May, 2016 speaker. He earned his B.A. from Notre Dame and his J.D. from Boston College Law School. His topic? Let's assume you know the Governor of Massachusetts. Abraham Lincoln has called for 75,000 troops after Fort Sumter. The Massachusetts Governor has stopped by

your home and appointed you Captain, Battery "A", 1st Mass Light. This is a newly formed Battery. What do you next. John Foskett will be your guide. John is a well known expert on Civil War artillery tactics



Al Smith, joins us in January, for the first time, with a wonderful presentation on the Abraham Lincoln Funeral Train. Al, and his brother Dave, lead the annual *Four Days in May Trip* to the East Coast Battlefields. Please see the insert on the Five Days in May trip Al and Dave Smith have planned for next May. There were nine of us from the New Bedford Civil War Round Table on the bus last May when we followed Lee's Retreat to Appomattox. You may wish to consider being on the bus next May as we travel to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia—the Valley Campaigns.

Abraham Lincoln and the "Mother of Thanksgiving". Credit to, written by, Barbara Maranzani published by, History.com.

On October 3, 1863, with the nation embroiled in a bloody Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation setting aside the last Thursday in November as a national day of thanks, setting the precedent for the modern holiday we celebrate today.

Secretary of State William Seward wrote it and Abraham Lincoln issued it, but much credit for the proclamation should probably go to a woman named Sarah Josepha Hale. A prominent writer and editor, Hale had written the children's poem "Mary Had a Little Lamb," in 1830 and helped found the American Ladies Magazine, which she used as a platform to promote women's issues. In addition to her publishing work, Hale was a committed advocate for women's education (including the creation of Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY), and raised funds to construct Massachusetts's Bunker Hill Monument and save George Washington's Mount Vernon estate.

The New Hampshire-born Hale had grown up regularly celebrating an annual Thanksgiving holiday, and in 1827 published a novel, "Northwood: A Tale of New England", that included an entire chapter about the fall tradition, already popular in parts of the nation.

While at "Godey's Lady Book", Hale often wrote editorials and articles about the holiday and she lobbied state and federal officials to pass legislation creating a fixed, national day of thanks on the last Thursday of November—a unifying measure, she believed that could help ease tensions and divisions between the northern and southern parts of the country. Her efforts paid off: By 1854 more than 30 states and U.S. territories had a Thanksgiving celebration on the books, but Hale's national holiday vision remained unfulfilled.

The outbreak of war in April 1861 did little to stop Sarah Josepha Hale's efforts to create such a holiday, however she continued to write editorials on the subject, urging Americans to put aside sectional feelings and rally around the unifying cause of Thanksgiving. And the holiday had continued, despite hostilities, in both the Union and the Confederacy. In 1861 and 1862, Confederate President Jefferson Davis had issued Thanksgiving Day proclamations following Southern victories. Abraham Lincoln called for a day of thanks in April 1862, following Union victories at Ft Donelson, Fort Henry, and at Shiloh, and again in the summer of 1863 after the Battle of Gettysburg. Shortly after Lincoln's summer proclamation, Hale wrote to both Seward and Lincoln, once again urging them to declare a national Thanksgiving, stating that only the chief executive had the power to make the holiday a permanent one.

Within a week, Seward drafted the proclamation and Lincoln signed it, hoping to "heal the wounds of the nation".

In honor of our own living historian, Colonel Joshua Chamberlain, aka Bob Macfarlane, I give you the details of his "battlefield promotion" to Brigadier General by Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant.

It is one of the famous battlefield promotions. Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant promoted Colonel Joshua Chamberlain to Brigadier General "on the battlefield" of Petersburg in 1864. It was unique, and seems to be not in accord with the generally accepted process.

That process was as follows:

- 1. Proposed by superior officer, Congressman, Governor*
- 2. Agreement by officers senior to candidate*
- 3. Endorsement by General-in-Chief*
- 4. Appointment by Sec of War*
- 5. Acceptance by candidate*
- 6. Nomination by the President*
- 7. Approval by Senate Committee on Mil Affairs*
- 8. Confirmation by vote and consent of Senate*
- 9. Registration of appt by Adjutant General*
- 10. Appt signed by Sec of War and President*

Joshua Chamberlain's actual timeline was as follows:

June 18 . Chamberlain wounded at Rives Salient Feared that he would not recover (lives 50 more years)

June 20. Grant, in view of this wound, promotes him to Brigadier General " on the spot", forwarding a copy of his order to the War Department

June 23. Sec of War Stanton, writes to President Lincoln, proposing the appointment of Chamberlain to Brig. General to rank from June 18, 1864

June 23. Pres Lincoln writes to the Senate, nominating Chamberlain for appointment to Brig General as proposed by Sec Stanton

June 25. The Senate orders that the nomination be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and Militia

June 27. The Senate orders that the Committee on Military Affairs and the Militia be discharged from the consideration of the nomination of Joshua Chamberlain, and as a result, advises and consents to the appointment agreeably to the nomination.

Proper procedure was mostly followed.....

Did You Know

General Stonewall Jackson walked around with his right hand in the air to balance the blood in his body. Because he was right handed, he thought that his right hand was getting more blood than his left, and so by raising his hand, he'd allow the excess blood to run into his left hand.

NEW BEDFORD AND THE CIVIL WAR

...Taken from an article by Steve Urban , New Bedford Standard Times, April 12, 2011

By the time the Confederate Army fired the first shots at Fort Sumter, S.C., New Bedford—and , indeed, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts—had already started preparing for war, stocking up on weaponry, and building fortresses.

And when war came, the city mobilized within days, everyone scrambling to do something to stop the "traitors" from the South.

The whaling industry was just coming off its peak in 1861. About 300 whale ships called New Bedford Harbor their home. Herman Melville had published "Moby-Dick" only a decade earlier, and it was a flop. Escaped slave and abolitionist Frederick Douglass had left New Bedford for the national stage in Washington.

The call came by telegraph from Washington D.C. on Monday, April 15. Gov. John A. Andrew had been ordered by the Lincoln administration to send 20 companies of soldiers immediately. New Bedford's Company L of the Third Regiment, Massachusetts Voluntary Infantry under the command of Col. David W. Wardrop , would be among them.

In New Bedford, the City Guards rallied to their armory in Mechanics Hall, led by Capt. Timothy Ingraham. Their armory was on City Hall Square, where the Duff Building now stands, across Pleasant Street from City Hall."Their enthusiasm knew no bounds," wrote the paper.

It was a huge sendoff. As of 7:30 a.m. the sidewalks in front of City Hall were packed. By 8:30 a.m. the crowd was spilling into all the streets. Former Gov. John H. Glifford presided, telling the troops, "You, my fellow citizens and soldiers, have the distinguished honor of being among the first to have been selected to stand by and protect the flag of our glorious country," as the crowd cheered even more.

We will cover more of this event in next month's Flagbearer.

RED TAPE

The expression "cutting through the red tape" dates from the 18th century, but the red twill fabric from which that phrase derives has a much longer heritage. Clerks in 11th Century England wove red ribbon through slits at the top of official documents and sealed the ends with melted wax. American clerks continued the centuries-old practice of binding papers, folders, and volumes with red twill tape until the 1890s.

Before 1890, documents were tri-folded, bound with red tape, and placed upright in narrow wooden boxes. Today, the Civil War Conservation Corps at the National Archives in Washington, DC, is literally cutting through that red tape in an effort to preserve these valuable documents. Archivists and volunteers remove the red tape, unfold the documents, and place them in acid-free folders and storage boxes. They are also microfilming the records to preserve them and to provide greater access.Foundation for the National Archives