

September 2022

This issue of the Flagbearer

...Civil War news

...New Secretary joins the Board

...Holiday dinner party date set

...September meeting details—
date and time change

...Peter Rioux's essay on Dr.
Letterman

Megan Kate Nelson lecture at the
U.S. Army War College

...Bob Randall interview on You
Tube

...Reminder to pay your member-
ship dues for 2022-2023

...New NB Civil War Round Table
Logo

...Olde Colony RT Jubilee Dinner

2022-2023 Executive Board

Mark Mello-President

Peter Rioux- Vice President

Martin Flinn-Treasurer

Larry Monastesse-Speaker
Programming

Don Brown-Digital Outreach

Peter Rioux-Langlois Book Award

Recording Secretary- Will Hunter

Jack Richer-Board of Directors

Bob Randall-Board of Directors

Facebook Page-David Prentiss

Bruce Baggarly-Board of Directors
Emeritus

Bob Macfarlane-Board of Directors
Emeritus

Website by Following Sea Design

Bob Lytle-Flagbearer

Cell # 508-542-7630

bobbylee76@comcast.net

THE FLAGBEARER

THE GREATER NEW BEDFORD CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Tuesday September 20, 2022 6:00 p.m.

***** Note the date change and the earlier start time *****

Low Tide Yacht Club building, 1000 So. Rodney French Blvd, New Bedford, MA located
inside Fort Taber Park, open to the public, no charge, ample parking

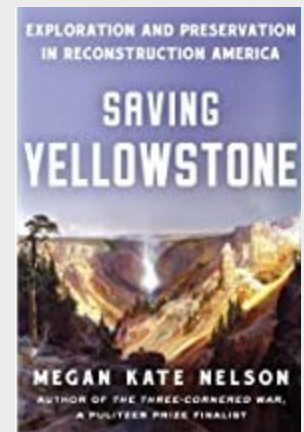
Speaker for September 20, 2022

Megan Kate Nelson, Ph.D.

Dr. Nelson returns to the New Bedford Civil War Round Table for the third or fourth time, this time to introduce her newest book, "Saving Yellowstone". Each year nearly four million people visit Yellowstone National Park, but few know the fascinating 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.

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.

You may wish to purchase her book prior to the September 20th Round Table meeting.



.... News From the Round Table

Please note the date change for our September meeting. It is a Tuesday



Also, we will start promptly at 6:00 p.m. Please arrive at 5:45. This change is because the City of New Bedford will lock the gate at 8:00 p.m. We must vacate before 8:00 p.m.

The parking at the Low Tide Yacht Club and the Military Museum is free, but we will need to issue you a pass to put on your dashboard. We will have someone standing outside Low Tide Yacht Club with the passes. Otherwise you may be issued a ticket by a very aggressive parking attendant representing the City of New Bedford. Please tell the Ft Taber gate entrance people that you are going to the Museum.



Have you sent in your 2022-2023 Membership renewal?



PAY YOUR DUES

... additional Round Table updates

Annual Holiday Dinner will again be at the Century House in Acushnet.

[Tuesday December 6, 2022 6:00 p.m.](#)
[Ticket information will be in the October Flagbearer.](#)

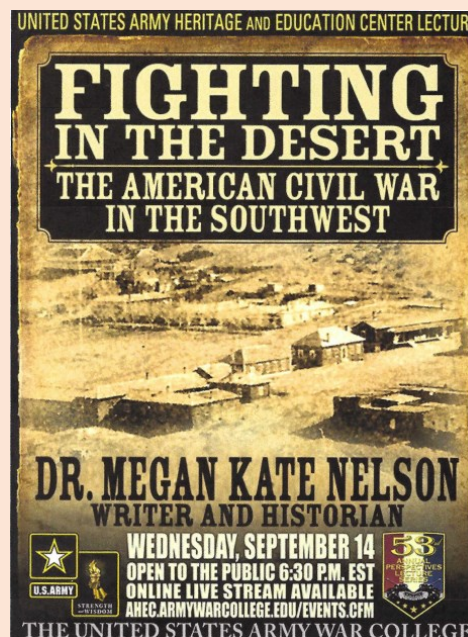


Peter Rioux is already working on his Civil War Trivial Pursuit

....We welcome Mr. Will Hunter to the Board of Directors of the New Bedford Civil War Round Table. Will Hunter has graciously volunteered to be the Recording Secretary for the Round Table.



...Our September speaker, Dr. Megan Kate Nelson, a friend of many Round Tables in New England, will be delivering a lecture at the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, PA, on [September 14th at 6:30 p.m.](#) You can see this lecture on-line by following the live streaming link I recently emailed you. This lecture will feature her book, *Three-Cornered War*, a first runner-up for the Pulitzer Prize in history literature.



Did you see the You Tube Video by our Digital Outreach team - Don Brown and Bob Lytle ?

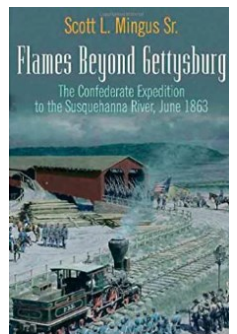
We interviewed Round Table member Bob Randall at the Fort Taber~Fort Rodman Military Museum

Round Table member Bob Randall, age 90, recently donated a collection of Civil War hats worn by his great grandfather, George H. Randall, of the Massachusetts 3rd Cavalry Company E. Corporal George H. Randall fought in 13 battles, most notably in Louisiana, and Virginia. He died in December 1939. Bob visited him at his farm in Rochester as a young lad.

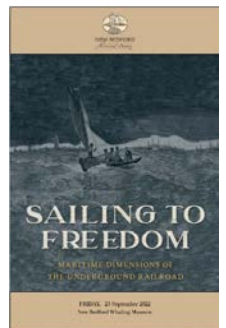


... other Civil War history news

If you are planning to attend the Olde Colony Jubilee Dinner , on Thursday October 20, as many of us are, you may wish to purchase Scott Mingus' new book , **"Flames Beyond Gettysburg"** Scott is the keynote speaker for the Jubilee dinner.

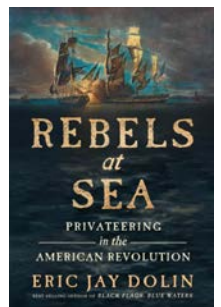


...**The New Bedford Historical Society**, the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, and UMASS Dartmouth are sponsoring a day long conference at the Whaling Museum, highlighting New Bedford and other seacoast communities' role in the Underground Railroad, providing liberty and shelter to freedom seekers. While not confirmed, Civil War Medal of Honor recipient, William Carney may have taken this path to New Bedford. The program is titled, **Sailing to Freedom: Maritime Dimensions of the Underground Railroad.** This program is free with funding from the National Writers Project and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The program is an all day event Friday, September 23.



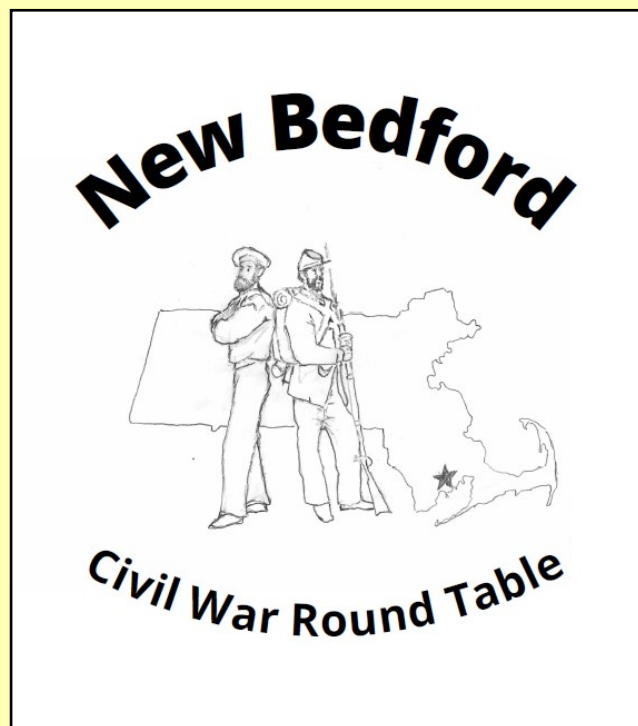
Here is your registration link. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sailing-to-freedom-maritime-dimensions-of-the-underground-railroad-tickets-406928824067>

...From the Town of Dartmouth Historical Commission , on October 24th, 5:30, at the North Dartmouth Library, 211 Cross Road, Eric Jay Dolin will be the featured speaker of the Dartmouth Heritage Preservation Trust. His lecture is titled, **Rebels at Sea, Privateering in the American Revolution.** This will give you the basis for the CSS Alabama and Civil War maritime law, after the Revolutionary War. More on this in early October.



Check out the New Bedford Civil War Round Table new logo !!!!

Product branding is vital to our growth as an organization, and Don Brown, Digital Outreach, has developed a new logo for the Round Table. It gives us a professional look. It will be used on our membership cards, banners, flags, posters, t-shirts, polo shirts, coffee cups, announcements, and so on. At the September meeting, Don Brown, and our President, Mark Mello, will be modeling on the red carpet, a polo shirt with this logo embroidered on the front. If you like it, Don will order a shirt for you at the September meeting. Pricing will be available at the that meeting.



THE NEW BEDFORD CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

2022-2023 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Program Year is July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

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 _____

Type of Membership _____ Individual (\$25.00) _____ Family (\$30.00)

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Cell or Home phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Date: _____

November 29, 2022 Speaker

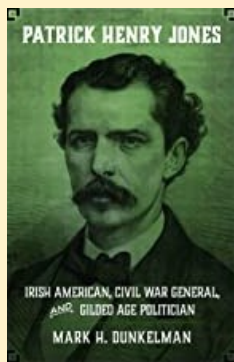
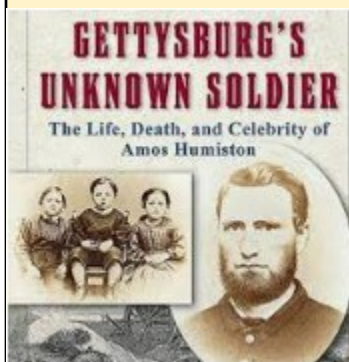
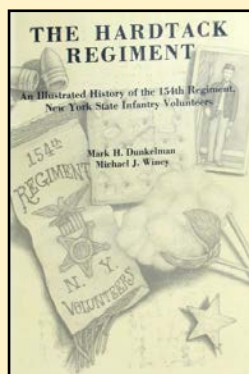
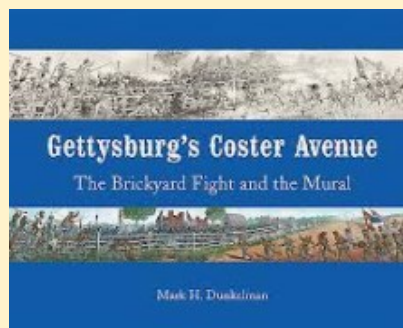
Mark H. Dunkelman returns to the New Bedford Civil War Round Table.

I have cut and pasted cover photos of just a few of his books. Mark is President of the Rhode Island Civil War Round Table. His research, over the years, has focused on the 154th New York Volunteer Infantry, a.k.a. the "Hardtack Regiment". He has contacted over 1,200 descendants of members of the 154th, locating and copying over 1,700 wartime letters, 250 portraits, 25 diaries, dozens of relics, and several other memoirs and accounts.

Mark's great-grandfather was a member of the famed 154th.

His presentation to our Round Table will cover the many stories of his adventures as a Civil War author and historian.

Welcome Mark, we are glad to host your return.



October 25, 2022 Speaker.....



Kevin M. Levin

Author and historian

Kevin Levin has presented programs to our Round Table many times and does not need an introduction. He has taught history full- and part-time at Gann Academy in Waltham. You can find his op-eds in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Atlantic, Smithsonian Magazines, Civil War Times, and the Civil War Monitor. He has appeared on the Black News Channel, C-Span, NPR, Al-Jazeera,

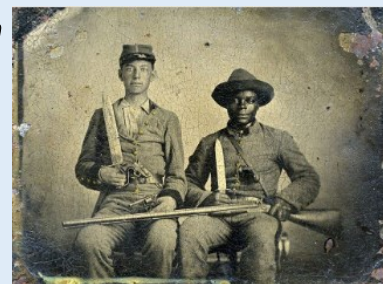


Remembering the Battle
of the Crater
University Press of Kentucky (2012)

BackStory With the American History Guys, and Vox. He has been a participant in workshops at the National Park Service, Civil War Trust, Organization of American Historians, Ford's Theatre, The Civil War Institute at

Gettysburg College, and the Massachusetts Historical Society.

We welcome Kevin back to the New Bedford Civil War Round Table.



Searching for Black
Confederates

University of North Carolina Press (2019)

Doctor Jonathan Letterman
The Union's Foremost Medical Hero, by Peter Rioux

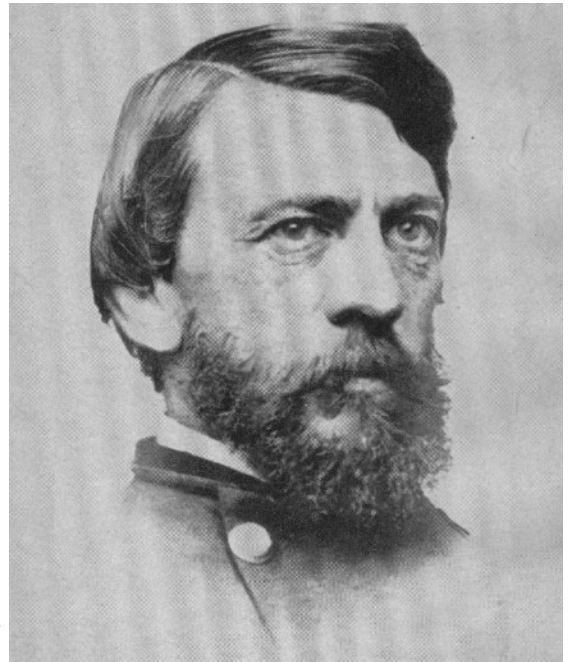
The American Civil War was the country's most tragic experience ever suffered in its history. The extent of its casualties is a vivid and unmistakable expression of this tragedy. The story of Jonathan Letterman, however, remains a testimonial to the saving of thousands of military lives, not achieved as a result of his surgical skills, but through his creation and application of advanced, diligently administered medical practices and procedures.

His accomplishments enabled so many of this war's seriously wounded to confront death, recover, and then return home to their families to then live and enjoy productive lives in the aftermath of this conflict.

Jonathan Letterman was born in 1824 in Cansburg, Pennsylvania, the son of a doctor and later a graduate from Jefferson Medical College twenty-five years later. Upon graduation, he served as a physician's apprentice and subsequently joined the army as an assistant surgeon. He served various outpost assignments treating malaria in the Tampa, Florida area and the outbreak of scurvy at Fort Union in New Mexico, and Fort Monroe in Virginia, two years prior to the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter.

The Union defeat at Bull Run in 1861 exposed Letterman to the gross inadequacy of direct medical care for the battlefield Union wounded, evacuation and ambulance care, limited hospital supplies and medical personnel, and competent hospital treatment. This forced many wounded to wander aimlessly through city streets, such as Washington and Baltimore desperately seeking needed medical care.

In the latter part of 1862, Letterman received several promotional appointments, including Medical Director in the Department of West Virginia supervising the design and construction of military hospitals, the creation of an ambulance service to transport the wounded from the battlefield and the transfer of patients to larger eastern city hospitals for treatment.

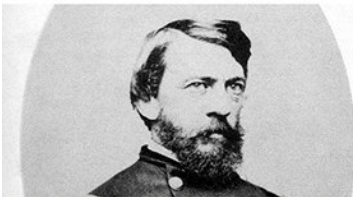


His most significant appointment in July 1862 was that Medical Director for the 100,000 troop Army of the Potomac, coordinating all aspects of its medical management system, and where in this capacity, his direct exposure to the casualties inflicted during the Union's major battles at Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg, enabled him to see the necessity for the design medical treatment systems that would prove to be extensively lifesaving.

Upon assuming responsibilities as Medical Director, Letterman quickly discovered serious deficiencies in the Union's medical system – limited supplies, deficient number of medical officers, extensive troop sicknesses, and limited hospital tents. With the enthusiastic consent of General McClellan, he exercised widespread authority obtaining more tents and ambulances, provided greater sanitary treatment for the wounded, improved hygiene conditions, obtained better and more nutritious food, and secured vital medical supplies.

As a result of these medical system improvements, the disease rate decreased by 33% in Letterman's first month as Director. He also issued executive orders identifying medical evacuation responsibilities, staffing and training of ambulance personnel, and the proper and immediate treatment of battlefield wounded.

Having seen the extent of casualties that major battles can engender; he organized the preparation of medical treatment in advance of anticipated major battles. At Antietam, which experienced a casualty rate of 2,000 per hour, he established 100 field hospitals by converting existing buildings, such as barns, farmhouses, and churches, and established an evacuation system that quickly extracted all 14,000 Union wounded within twenty-four hours.



JONATHAN LETTERMAN, MD 1849:
THE FATHER OF BATTLEFIELD MEDICINE



Battlefield Medicine



In preparing advanced support for the Union battle at Fredericksburg three months later, which resulted in 12,000 Union casualties, Letterman reorganized the medical supply system, achieved the efficient evacuation of the wounded, and established more immediate aid field stations and hospitals situated closer to the battle locations. At Gettysburg, his evacuation system successfully resulted in the transfer of all Union casualties by the morning after the third day of battle, transporting 16,000 wounded troops to an extensive system of field and main hospitals.

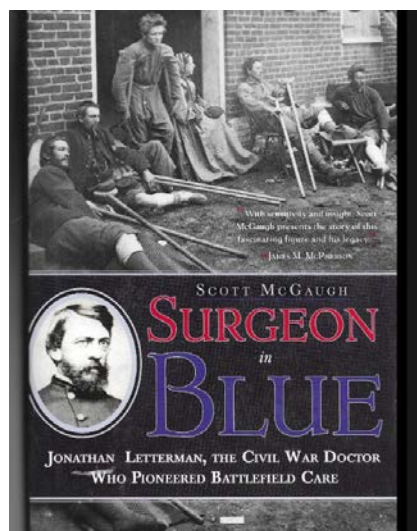
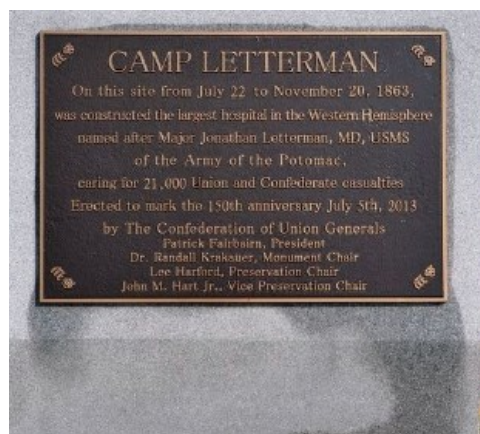
The cumulatively beneficial effect of Letterman's medical treatment systems during the war resulted in the construction of nineteen large Union hospitals, improved surgical training, extensive availability and distribution of medical supplies, 120,000 hospital beds, better nutrition and ambulance care, dramatic reduction in disease and troop illness, and the preservation of thousands of lives among the wounded. For instance, the mortality rate experienced at Gettysburg was 2% compared to 33% during the earlier Peninsula Campaign. Many of the management systems he designed were later used to save additional troop lives in America's subsequent conflicts and are still used today.

He recollected his career in his memoirs entitled Medical Recollections of the Army of the Potomac published in 1866.

Doctor Jonathan Letterman died in March 1872 at the relatively young age of 46. In 1906, his daughter moved him, along with his late wife, to an honored burial site at Arlington National Cemetery. As a fitting testimonial to his service, the San Francisco Military Hospital was named after him in 1911.

“Jonathan Letterman who brought order and efficiency to the medical services and was the originator of modern methods of medical organization in the armies.”

My primary source for this essay was the book entitled Surgeon in Blue by Scott McGaugh. My thanks to Doctor C. Doug Fogg for lending this book to me.



The Olde Colony Civil War Round Table has announced plans for its annual Jubilee Dinner



Olde Colony Civil War Round Table

Nonprofit organization

Our sister Round Table, the Olde Colony Civil War Round Table of Dedham, MA, has announced their annual Jubilee Dinner.

When: Thursday October 20, 2022 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Location: Four Points Sheraton, Norwood, MA

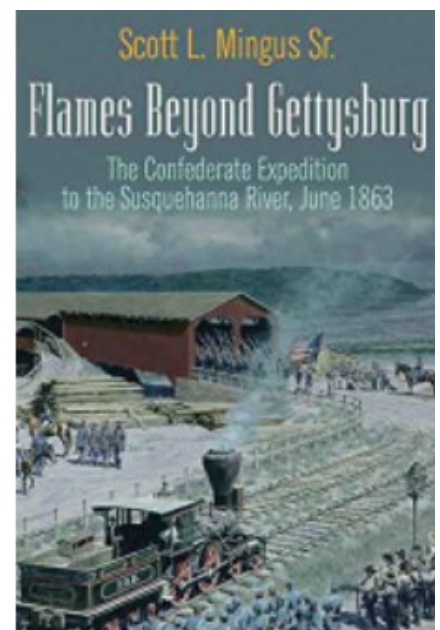
Guest Speaker: Scott L. Mingus, Sr.



Flames Beyond Gettysburg: The Confederate Expedition to the Susquehanna River, June 1863



Scott L. Mingus Sr.



Tickets: \$50.00

Reservations are required. Ticket information is on the next page. The New Bedford Civil War Round Table has supported Olde Colony's Jubilee Dinner for many years. We usually have a full table of our members in attendance. The dinner is excellent. The raffle of Civil War artifacts and books is impressive, and Olde Colony has always tried to have the best speakers present for your evening's enjoyment. Mark your calendar for October 20th.

Olde Colony Civil War Round Table's President, Dana Zaiser, is also a long time member of the New Bedford Civil War Round Table.

OLDE COLONY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Annual Jubilee Dinner & Preservation Raffle

DATE: Thursday, October 20, 2022

LOCATION: Four Points Sheraton, 1125 Boston Providence
Turnpike (Route 1), Norwood, MA 02026

GUEST SPEAKER: Author **Scott L. Mingus, Sr.** His presentation
will be about his book ***Flames Beyond Gettysburg: The
Confederate Expedition to the Susquehanna River, June 1863***

TICKETS: \$50.00 each, includes a three-course boneless chicken
dinner

Time: 6:00pm to 10:00pm, dinner at 7:00pm

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL _____

NUMBER OF TICKETS _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: **OCCWRT**

SEND TICKET REQUEST AND CHECK TO:

DANA ZAISER

4 MYRAS WAY

NORTON, MA 02766

774-218-1761 dzaiser1@aol.com

TICKET REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 13, 2022 [NO TICKETS
WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR]

*** CIVIL WAR ARTIFACTS EXHIBITS**

*** RAFFLE TO BENEFIT THE PRESERVATION FUND**