“POST-CIVIL WAR 1869
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA VISIT OF
USS KEARSARGE”
DR. ROBERT “MICK” M. BEDARD
SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018
BUGBEE SENIOR CENTER
WHITE RIVER JCT., VT

12:00 Social Hour
12:15 Buffet Lunch
12:45 Business Meeting
1:00 Program, followed by discussion and book raffle
Adjournment

GUARANTEED DINNER RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 12 NOON, APRIL 12. Cost per person for the meal is $12.00. For reservations please contact Gail Blake at auntis@comcast.net or 802-296-2919. Cost for the meeting only for members is $2.00, and for non-members $5.00.

Menu:
Homemade Macaroni and Cheese
Pulled Pork
Homemade cornbread
Baked Beans
Green Salad
Dessert

Reminder to the membership: PLEASE be sure to notify Gail if you will be having dinner at the meeting. Reservations are required so we can order adequate servings. In the past, we have accommodated those without reservations and unfortunately didn’t have enough to go around. We need a head count! Thanks for your understanding.

DR. ROBERT “MICK” M. BEDARD

Dr. Bedard became aware of the USS Kearsarge’s 1869 Sydney Port of Call when he became annoyed hearing of Melbourne’s CSS Shenandoah 1865 shenanigans on his trip there in 2007. Using archival research from the Libraries of Victoria and NSW as well as our National Archives, he is looking forward to giving the U.S. premier of this original talk after presenting it twice in Australia last year. The Kearsarge was world famous having beaten the Confederate raider Alabama in a ships’ duel off of Cherbourg, France in 1864. It was and still is a famous USN ship.

Mick will relate how the Kearsarge came to visit Sydney and how its officers and crew were received and behaved. Consider his talk the Kearsarge’s postcard from Australia – whom they met, what they did and ate, how the weather was and more!

Dr. Robert “Mick” Bedard of Connecticut is a past presenter to the Sydney Round Table (2013 and 2017), The Melbourne Mob (2007 and 2017) and to “The Holders and Friends” of Adelaide (2015), all on Civil War Medical themes. He is a lifelong reader of American and World history with
particular interest in the Civil War and 19thC medicine. Mick is now a happily retired “Consultant” in Allergy, Immunology and Internal Medicine. A “Bay Stater”, he was educated at Brown and University of Cincinnati Med with further medical training in Vermont (both of his daughters are Green Mountain Born) and Wisconsin. Since 1987, he has done Civil War re-enacting with the 5th New Hampshire and 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantries and with the Kearsarge Afterguard. He has talked about Civil War Medicine at hospitals, Round tables, historical societies and civic groups all around New England.

Bedard was born in Massachusetts and graduated from Brown University in Rhode Island and University of Cincinnati Medical School. He completed his Internal Medicine Residency at Medical Center Hospital in Burlington, Vermont. Dr. Bedard went on to complete Fellowship in Allergy and Immunology at University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics in Madison. Dr. Bedard is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Allergy and Immunology. He was a Clinical Instructor in the Department of Medicine at the University Of Connecticut School Of Medicine. He is on the emeritus staff at Hartford Hospital.

Dr. Bedard was in the solo practice of asthma and allergy in Hartford from 1984 until 1996 when he joined with his pediatric partners in 1996 to form Connecticut Asthma and Allergy Center. After a long career, he retired in November 2015.

His outside interests include the Red Sox and American history, in particular the Civil War. He is a Union reenactor and has given presentations on Civil War medicine and the 1869 Sydney, Australia port of call of the USS Kearsarge. Dr. Bedard’s clinical interest and expertise centered on chronic asthma, nasal/sinus disease, drug and skin allergies. He has been recognized by the National Registry of Who’s Who, the Best Doctors in America, and Connecticut Magazine’s “Best Doctors.”

**2018 Program Schedule**

**May 14:** John Mudge – “What Got You Interested in the Civil War?”

**June 11:** Will Greene - A Perfect Hell of Blood: The Battle of the Crater

**Other Round Table Meetings and Happening**

- **April 25 - 6 P.M.** - Northeast Kingdom Civil War Round Table - Nancy Miville - Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, Civil War Surgeon & MOH recipient – Eastside Restaurant, Newport, Vermont.

- **April 20 – CWRT OF NH** – Ronald J. Guilmette - "First to Serve" (book on Massachusetts State Police creation out of the Civil War) 7:15 P.M., Epping Town Hall, 157 Main St, Epping, NH - [www.cwrt-nh.org](http://www.cwrt-nh.org)

- **May 2 – 7:00 P.M.** - *Mourning Lincoln* - Public responses to Lincoln’s assassination have been well chronicled, but New York University Professor of History Martha Hodes is the first to delve into personal and private responses—of African Americans and whites, Yankees and Confederates, soldiers and civilians. In this talk, she investigates the reaction on a human scale to America’s first presidential assassination, when the future of the nation was at stake for everyone whether they grieved or rejoiced at the news. Norwich Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, 15 Church Street, Norwich, Vermont.

**GMCWRT BEGINNINGS**

From April 1994:


Our paid membership at the time was 23, and the treasury balance was $836.00.

There was a recipe for Johnny Cakes, and a comment from RT member Bob Dame, about what one could find on the Internet! Evidently he found a book published in 1991 consisting of letters from Capt. Henry Abbott, who ordered his ancestor to his death in Fredericksburg.

**Treasurers Report**

Starting Balance: $3325.37

Expenses:

- March Speaker expenses: $162 (meal, travel expenses, maple syrup donated)
- Maple Street Catering: $301.40 (meal, tax, delivery, gratuity)
- Deposit: $861 (meals, dues, raffle, donations)
- Petty Cash: $126

Balance: $3848.97

**MAY MEETING!**

**Short Presentations Needed**

We all have a great interest in the Civil War as both individuals and as a group. We have visited museums and battlefields, we have personal libraries and have read many books, and we may have our collections of Civil War Memorabilia.

Volunteers, perhaps two, are needed for the May meeting to talk about what they remember as their very first exposure to this war. Did you visit a battlefield? (Have you been back to that battlefield?) Were you given a book about the war? Was it perhaps just an interest in military history? Perhaps there was a photograph of someone in a uniform that hung in a family member’s home and you were told about their involvement in the war. Was it perhaps a class project that
first stimulated your interest in the war and that has stayed with you all these years? It would be fun to hear about what episode in your life first kindled your continuing interest in the war. (For me, learning about my Virginia ancestors was NOT my first exposure to this war.) Is there anything about that very first introduction to the Civil War that you still think about?

If you are willing to talk about this first experience, please contact me. Tel: 603-795-4350 or email, DurandPress@aol.com. Many thanks – John Mudge

**WORLD WAR I GROUP**

This group meets monthly on the 4th Monday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Veteran’s Administration hospital cafeteria. If you want to come or want more information, contact Peter Sinclair [802-584-3280] or David Curtin [802-633-2536].

**PLEASE NOTE THE MEETING PLACE CHANGE!**

**HORSES!**

Prized horses on the Confederate side included:

**BEAUREGARD** - who survived until 1883, was ridden to Appomattox by Captain W.I. Rasin.
**FLEETER** - ridden by spy Belle Boyd.
**BLACK HAWK** - mounted by Major General William B. Bate.
**DIXIE** - battle steed killed at Perryville while being ridden by Major General Patrick R. Cleburne.
**RIFLE** - cherished by Lieutenant General Richard S. Ewell.
**KING PHILIP** - possibly the favorite horse of Forrest, who also owned and rode Roderick and Highlander.
**JOE SMITH** - owned by Brigadier General Adam R. Johnson.
**FIRE-EATER** - a splendid bay thoroughbred ridden by General Albert S. Johnston when he was killed at Shiloh.
**NELLIE GRAY** - Major General Fitzhugh Lee's mare who was numbered among the dead at Opequon.
**TRAVELLER** - by all odds this best-known horse of General Lee
**OLD FOX** - ridden by Colonel F. G. Skinner of the First Virginia Infantry.
**VIRGINIA** - credited with having prevented the capture of Major General Jeb Stuart by jumping an enormous ditch. In addition to the mare, Stuart frequently rode Highty.
**SARDANAPALUS** - favorite mount of partisan M. Jeff Thompson of Missouri.

Some of the horses that helped make history on the Union side were:
**OLD WHITEY** - the usual mount of "Mother" Bickerdyke, among the most famous of female nurses.
**ALMOND EYE** - ridden by Major General Benjamin F. Butler.

**NELLIE** - Brigadier General Kenner Garrard’s favorite mare.
**CINCINNATI** - presented to Lieutenant General U.S. Grant in 1864 and immediately identified as his favorite horse. When Colonel Grant rode into Springfield, Illinois, in 1861, he was aride a white horse named Methuselah. Grant first rode into battle on the back of Rondy and during the war also used Fox, Jack, Jeff Davis, and Kangaroo.
**LOOKOUT** - acquired at Chattanooga and named for a battle of that campaign, stood seventeen hands high and was cherished by Major General Joseph Hooker.
**MOSCOW** - a white horse used in battle by Major General Philip Kearny against the advice of his colleagues may have been his favorite. Because the big horse was an inviting target, Kearny switched to a bay named Decatur and then to Bayard, whose color was light brown.
**SLASHER** - ridden into battle by Major General John A. Logan and depicted by an artist as dashing along a line of battle with all four feet off the ground.
**BOOMERANG** - named for his tendency to move backward, was owned by Colonel John McArthur of the Twelfth Illinois Regiment.
**KENTUCK** - may have been the favorite mount of Major General George B. McClellan. There’s a chance that Daniel Webster held that place of special esteem. In addition, McClellan rode a black horse named Burns.
**BALDY** - wounded at First Bull Run and at Antietam, later took Brigadier General George G. Meade to Gettysburg and a promotion. Philadelphia’s "Old Baldy Civil War Round Table" helps to commemorate the memory of the horse.
**ALDEBARON** - an early mount of Colonel Philip Sheridan, gave way to a gelding named Rienzi. After taking Sheridan on his famous ride to Winchester, the name of the animal was changed to that of the town. Winchester (or Rienzi) was so revered that when he died, his stuffed body was presented to the Smithsonian Institution.
**LEXINGTON** - possibly the favorite of Sherman, who also rode Dolly and Sam.
**BILLY** - named for Sherman, was the bay war horse of Major General George Thomas.

**New Hampshire Sentinel, Keene, NH**

**April 27, 1865**

**MEMORIAL TO MRS. LINCOLN.**—A movement is on foot, to raise $100,000, to be presented to Mrs. Lincoln as a token of the respect felt by the peo[ple] for their departed President. That all may contribute, it is proposed that no subscription shall exceed one dollar, thus making the offering one, not of the wealthy few, but of the patriotic many.

**New Hampshire Sentinel, Keene, NH**

**April 27, 1865**

The War Department has information that the murder of President Lincoln was planned in Canada, and that the scheme was afterwards approved in Richmond. One of the
fellows who attempted the assassination of Mr. Seward is believed to be a St. Albans raider.

**Portsmouth Journal of Literature and Politics, Portsmouth, NH**
**April 29, 1865**

It is said that among Mr. Lincoln’s papers have been found a package of letters marked in his own hand-writing, “Assassination Letters.” While many of them threatened his life, others warned him of plots to take it. He seems to have become so used to things of this sort that neither kind made any impression upon him.

The value of the estate left by the late President Lincoln is estimated at $25,000. He has probably spent all the income of the last four years.

And...

Work at the Springfield Armory is being rapidly reduced. Twelve hundred workmen have already been discharged, and eight hundred will soon follow, leaving a force of only eight hundred.

**DUES ARE DUE! PLEASE BRING THEM TO OUR APRIL MEETING OR MAIL THEM TO GAIL BLAKE, 55 Orizzonto Road, White River, VT 05001. Thank you for supporting our Round Table.**

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Green Mountain Civil War Round Table
P.O. Box 982
White River Junction, VT 05001