



The Pound 'n Pint

June 2026

Newsletter of the Colonial Navy of Massachusetts



Commodore's Log

I want to start by thanking everyone for their dedication to the Colonial Navy and for showing such enthusiastic participation this year. I know we have already had some interesting events and challenges along the way, but at the end of it all, we will have had an epic and historic year. We have increased our visibility in the fife and drum world and demonstrated our ability to roll with the punches. By the way, we finally got paid for Wellesley!

As the summer heats up, in more ways than one, we still have many events to go. We are doing our best to keep everyone informed with up-to-date information as it becomes available to us, so please understand if you feel like you are getting a million emails! A timely response to requests for attendance, for example, would help to eliminate several follow-up contacts. In order to help with some travel logistics, we have room for improvement.

I was extremely proud that we were invited to stand Honor Guard at Bob Gregory's wake. I know that Judy and Kate were very grateful, and everyone looked very professional. I understand that the services at the church and the cemetery were memorable. Thank you to Lee, Bob Miorelli, Don Hemenitz, and Kieran Murray for providing a musical "Salute to the Commodore" at the cemetery. We have lost a gracious and talented member who was always a shining star for us at every event. As he tried to find recruits at every opportunity, he did, somehow, manage to get his picture taken with all the beautiful women in our parades! He will be greatly missed.

Pam Burlingame
Commodore

Shortest Parade Ever in Adamsville RI

It's not often that a parade gets listed on our schedule as "Short Parade", but we had one on March 15, 2026. Captain Dave Kiley called it the "Shortest Prade in the World." The 89-foot-long parade is organized each year by Chris, PJ and Annie, who this year manned a large balloon float. The only CNM marchers who did not have other commitments that day were fifer Laura Hadley and Captain Dave Kiley.



Annie, Laura, and Captain Dave preparing themselves for the shortest parade ever.



The almost Macy's-sized balloon parade float manned by the Pietrazek family.

Souls of the Soldiers Saluting

Veterans Memorial Bicentennial Park in Fall River, where CNM does a ceremony each year on Veterans day after the parade features a memorial that is an 80% scale replica of the original Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The wall spans 360 feet long and is composed of 140 black aluminum panels. The engravings, just like the monument in D.C., include the names of over 58,000 Americans who lost their lives or were POWs during the Vietnam War.

This picture was taken at Veterans Memorial Bicentennial Park in 2021 by Bob delaFuente's daughter Robin. According to Bob, it was the first event that CNM did at the park. Upon seeing the photograph, Bob's grandson, who was seven years old at the time, said, "It looks like the souls of the soldiers are saluting back." We agree with Nico.



The Girl I Left Behind Me...Maybe

The Girl I Left Behind Me, The Rest of The Story by Ed Boyle, submitted by Captain Bill Hart.

We had just played *The Girl I Left Behind Me* in Philadelphia's historic district when a smarty-pants from the crowd informed me that it was a Civil War tune, maybe once sung by sailors, and very inappropriate for our Continental Army musicians' uniforms. Although I was confident that it dated much earlier, there wasn't much I could say in response. So, I did some digging. What I came up with was Father Abbie's Will, or Father Addies Will, published in Boston in 1731.

Born in 1650, Father Abby was a caretaker and domestic at Harvard College who had an enormous reputation for being a confirmed tightwad. The song spoofs his last will and testament, listing very precisely what he left to his widow

To my dear wife, my joy in life, I freely now do give here:
 My whole estate with all my plate, being just about to leave here.
 My tub of soap, a long cord rope, a frying pan and kettle,
 And ash in the pail, a threshing flail, an iron wedge and beetle (*a beetle was a sledgehammer*)
 Two painted chairs, none wooden pairs, a large old dripping platter,
 This bed of hay on which I lay, an old sauce pan for batter.
 A little mug, a two-quart jug, a bottle full of brandy,
 A looking glass to see your face, you'll find it very handy.
 A musket true as ever flew, a pound of shot and wallet, (*a leather wallet held extra flints*)
 A leather sash, my calabash, my powder horn and bullets.
 A greasy hat, an old gray cat, a yard and a half of linen,
 A pot of grease, a woolen fleece, in order for your spinning.
 A ragged mat, a tub of fat, a book put out by Bunyan,
 Another book by Robin Rook, a skein or two of spun yarn.
 An old black muff, some garden stuff, a quantity of borridge,
 Some devil's weed, some burduck seed, to season well you're porridge.
 (*borridge, devil's weed, and burduck were slavorings*)
 A chafing dish, with one salt fish, if I am not mistaken,
 A leg of pork, a broken fork, and half a pitch of bacon.
 A spinning wheel, one peck of meal, a knife without a handle,
 A rusty lamp, two quarts of samp, a half a tallow candle. (*samp was corn meal*)
 My pouch and pipes, two oxen tripes, an oaken dish well carved,
 My little dog and spotted hog, with two young pigs just starved. (*newly weened*)
 This is my store, I have no more, I hardly do give it,
 My years are spun, my days are done, and so I think to leaving.

The Girl I Left Behind Me...More Likely

Ed Boyle (who wrote the previous article) was a fifer, researcher, an owner of “Be A Fifer” which was a source for Model F fifes and historical fife manuscripts for many years. With all due respect to Ed’s many years of fifeing and historical research, newer research indicates there is no direct connection between the tune of *The Girl I Left Behind Me* and the satirical broadside poem *Father Abbey’s Will*. While both are iconic pieces of early American colonial history, their musical and cultural origins are entirely different.

According to the Library of Congress, Broadside poems like *Father Abbey’s Will* were written to be sung or recited, and its author, the Reverend John Seccombe, when he wrote it in 1730, specifically instructed that his poem be sung to the rhythm of the popular English tune "To all you Ladies now at Land" (a well-known song by Charles Sackville, Earl of Dorset). It was never set to the tune of *The Girl I Left Behind Me*.

So here is an alternative - rest of the story.

"The Girl I Left Behind Me", is an English folk song dating back to the Elizabethan era. It is said to have been played when soldiers left for war or **a naval vessel set sail**. According to other sources, the song originated in 1758 when English Admirals Hawke and Rodney were observing the French fleet. The first printed text of the song appeared in Dublin in 1791. A popular tune with several variations, "The Girl I Left Behind Me", may have been imported into America around 1650 as "Brighton Camp". The origins and uses of the piece are deeply rooted in military history.

Irish Origins: The tune is closely related to the traditional Irish air "An Spailpín Fánach" (The Wandering Labourer). It was collected by Edward Bunting and noted as a beloved Irish piece.

English Origins: The melody was heavily used by the British military starting in the late 18th century as a marching tune, particularly when troops were stationed at encampments in Brighton, England.

The Song: The lyrics tell the story of a lonely soldier leaving for war or deployment, lamenting that he must leave his sweetheart behind.

American Adoption: The tune became incredibly popular in the United States during the War of 1812 and the Civil War, famously serving as a traditional fife and drum march.

Folk Traditions: Today, you will often hear the tune "Brighton Camp" played in English Morris dancing or country dance sessions.

Commissioning of the USS Massachusetts

The commissioning of the *USS Massachusetts* (SSN 798), a Virginia-class submarine, took place in Boston on a bitterly cold, but sunny 28th of March 2026. After passing through security, CNM was bused to the pier where *Massachusetts* was docked. Passing through more security, we joined a crowd of thousands, including dignitaries, politicians, and military personnel.

The temperature was so cold that we could only play three songs before retreating to the “warming tent” to try to recover the feeling in our fingers. After which we returned to the open air for a few more tunes. As the ceremony was about to begin, CNM had the honor of lining the pathway for the dignitaries approaching the stage. We then sat watching (and shivering) as speeches were given and honors were rendered. The *USS Constitution* passed by behind the *Massachusetts*, firing her cannons and giving the newly commissioned submarine a fitting tribute. When the ceremony was over, we theoretically had an opportunity to tour the submarine. But standing in a line of thousands that did not seem to be moving in the bitter cold, we made the smart decision and got on a bus to return to our cars. It was a great experience, even if it was one that was uncomfortably, even dangerously, cold.



How cold was it? When you can only play three tunes before your fingers are numb, that's cold.



A “warming tent” without heat is not really a warming tent.
But it made you *think* you felt warmer.



Lee and Sue impersonating the kids when Ebenezer Scrooge said,
“Begone, you miserable little beggars, before I give you something to sing about!”



Smiling in the cold while under our breath we are saying, "Hurry up and take the damn picture!"



The Commodore has been waiting her whole life for just the right moment to use a Sean Connery quote from *The Hunt for Red October*.

"Give me a ping, Vasili. One ping only, please."



USS Massachusetts and the USS Constitution

The William Diamond Muster

The William Diamond Muster was held on May 2, 2026, in Lexington. CNM had fourteen members in attendance. After the parade, we performed the Salute to the Commodore standpiece. We sounded great and looked pretty darn good in our green jackets. It was cool enough to wear our green jackets, but it felt like a heatwave compared to the *USS Massachusetts* commissioning.



Now that's a sharp looking crew!



Pam-Sue-Lee before the parade.



Waiting for the muster meal.



Lee shows her extreme patience as she endures Sue's perpetual drumming before we go on stand.

Aesthetic Society Corporate Event

On May 15, 2026, members of the Colonial Navy of Massachusetts performed at the Boston Convention Center for the Aesthetic Society. The Society requested just a small contingent so eight members participated in an event that included just a few tunes under the flowing swans at the entrance, a brief procession through the exhibit hall, and then we were done. A short but good days work for CNM to help build the treasury. A few of us went to lunch after the event, and followed Captain Bill's orders, "Don't spend more than you made."



Someone said let's call it our swan song. No let's not.



If you think the drummers aren't looking happy in this picture, you should have seen them trying to navigate the escalator while playing the drums.



Don after the event pointing out the power of green!



Pam was practicing her lettuce tossing skills across the table into Kevin's mouth.



Pam-Sue-Lee at the after-event gathering.

Naval Terms and Expressions

The following terms are just a few that will be published in issues of the Pound n' Pint. They come from a variety of sources.

Quarter-deck voice: A nautical term referring to an authoritative and commanding speaking tone. It takes its name from the ship's quarterdeck—the traditional location where naval captains gave orders, necessitating a voice loud and clear enough to be heard over wind, crashing waves, and the crew.



Not enough room to swing a cat: Refers to the cat-o'-nine-tails. It was usually too cramped to swing this whip below decks without hitting something.



Beat to quarters: Beating a drum to command the crew to go to their allocated stations in anticipation of action against the enemy. Beat to quarters is still an appropriate term even when there is no drum available.

Avast: The order to stop, hold, cease, or stay, in any operation. It originated as a sailor's interjection in the 17th century and was historically used to tell a crew to stop working or hold a position (e.g., "Avast heaving!" instructing a crew to stop pulling a rope).

Fife Rail: Nothing to do with playing the fife. A fife rail is a rail on a ship fitted with belaying pins to fasten the vessel's halyards at the base of a mast. It may be preceded by the name of the mast to which it is associated, such as main fife rail.



Wellesley Annual Veterans Parade

The annual Wellesley Veterans Parade is part of the Wellesley Wonderful Weekend. We can attest that it was wonderfully hot, and it felt like a long parade even though they said it was only 1.9 miles. The fun began trying to find the parking area. Once that was accomplished, we learned the parade organizers forgot to put CNM on their list. Fortunately, the Commodore had documentation, so the organizers said, "Don't worry, we'll find a spot for you, and you'll get paid."

The organizers placed us between units 71 and 72 (out of 100), behind a newly formed colonial group that had lined up under a sign that read "Massachusetts Army of 1775." When we got behind them, one of their members thought we were trying to jump their spot and said, "We're the Massachusetts Army of 1775, not the Massachusetts Navy of 1775."

Avast, ye name-encroaching landlubbers, and bear away, said we! We're in our proper berth, 71 ½. We kept a weather eye on them scallywags for the rest of the parade, but they skedaddled far ahead of us, so our great-sounding music did not mix with whatever they were attempting to play.



Finally, finding our position in the lineup. Unit 71 ½.



Bill cheerfully listens to Captain Dave's last-minute instructions.



Jeff is demonstrating that stick twirling thing drummers do.



Tom is excited about wearing a wool regimental and firing his fire-breathing musket in a 2-mile parade in 90-degree heat.



Chuck, carrying our guidon, gives Commodore Pam some last-minute encouragement. "Just follow me."



Lee, Bob, Laura, and the rest of the fife line are ready to start



Sue and Ron found the last bit of shade at the start of the parade.



Conor and Kevin on bass. Sue and Jeff on snare. The drum line is ready to go.

Somerset – The Parade that Wasn't

The Somerset Memorial Day parade that was scheduled for May 25, 2026, was canceled due to bad weather. As the old sailor said, "Avoid the storm you can't weather, and weather the storm you can't avoid." Salty wisdom aside, we had no choice in this decision. It was made by the parade committee. The unfortunate part is that we missed the food, grog, and camaraderie we usually experience after the parade at Capt. Dave Kiley's house.



The next time anyone complains about marching in the rain, Capt. Dave would like to remind you of the time you nearly froze to death while watching a submarine commissioning.

CNM says Goodbye to a Dedicated and Courageous Member

CNM Past Commodore, Captain, Clerk, and Drum Master Robert Gregory, 82, passed away at home with dignity and grace on May 24, 2026, with his wife and daughter by his side after a courageous battle with cancer. Bob showed us what courage and a positive attitude in the face of adversity really look like. His participation in numerous leadership roles, his drumming, his friendship, and his smile will be missed by the entire Fleet.

CNM provided a uniformed Honor Guard at Bob's wake on May 29, 2026. On May 30, 2026, a contingent of CNM Field Music performed "Salute to the Commodore" in commemoration of Bob having been a past Commodore. A single musket salute was fired by a CNM Marine. Farewell and following seas, my friend.



Capt. Bob Gregory leading the CNM drum line.



Capt. Tom Murray awaits a last salute to his friend, Capt Bob Gregory.

Gaspee Days Parade

The Colonial Navy of Massachusetts participated in the Gaspee Days parade in Warwick, RI, on June 13, 2026. The route is 2.27 miles long, which feels longer on a hot sunny day, but it ends at the parking lot on Rhodes Place where the grog wagon waits for us, along with a large stack of meat pies (we're not talking about your Mom's Thanksgiving mincemeat pies here, but tasty Fall River delicacies). We had a good turnout, especially considering the heat, and we were reinforced at the end of the parade when Pam, Sue, and Lee finished their obligations with the Pawtuxet Rangers, and walked back to where we were and finished the parade with CNM. The Fleet would also like to extend special thanks to snare drummer Dave Fontaine, who marched with us for the parade.



Bill and Rachel arrive. There will be no shortage of fife harmonies for this parade.

The drum line is ready to go. Thanks Dave, for helping us out in this parade.





BEFORE



AFTER



Ron and Sue had conflicting obligations for the Gaspee Days parade.



The Drum Major joins us and asks Rachel what tunes got called already. Rachel responds, "All of them."



Ever wonder why Capt. Tim looks hot in his wool regimental and Capt. Dave looks happy, cool, and refreshed?

It's because Capt. Dave's regimental is equipped with a battery-operated AC cooling system. Unfortunately, CNM could not afford to buy another one for Capt. Tim.



2026 Schedule

The list below includes the remaining events for 2026. It has been and continues to be a busy year!

Date	Event	Location
06/24/26	Dell Technologies corporate event	Hopkinton, MA
06/26/26	Truesdale Health corporate event	Fall River, MA
06/27/26	Marlborough 250th	Marlborough, MA
07/02/26	City of Quincy	Quincy, MA
07/04/26	Martha's Vineyard Parade	Edgartown, MA
07/11/26	Dighton Private Party	Dighton, MA
07/18/26	National Muster Deep River	Deep River, CT
08/01/26	Plymouth 250 Parade and event	Plymouth, MA
08/02/26	Feast of the Blessed Sacrament	New Bedford, MA
08/22/26	Westbrook Muster	Westbrook, CT
09/12/26	Alert Hose Co. 150 th Anniversary	Adams, MA
09/19/26	St. Bernard's Church	Assonet MA
09/26/26	Sudbury Muster	Sudbury, MA
10/11/26	Columbus Day Parade	Providence, RI
10/17/26	Sarah Bradlee Fulton Day	Medford, MA
11/11/26	Veterans Day Parade	Fall River, MA
11/11/26	Bicentennial Park Memorial ceremony	Fall River, MA
12/05/26	Holiday Parade	Fall River, MA
12/05/26	Fleet Holiday Party (Crossroads Pub)	Warren, RI
12/08/26	Fleet Annual Meeting and Election	Fall River, MA
12/19/26	Wreaths Across America	Somerset, MA

Meetings and Rehearsals

Monthly Meetings are usually held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. (The Narrows 7:00 PM) March-December. Rehearsals, when held, are usually on Tuesday nights at The Narrows 7:00 PM. Reminder notices are always emailed to the Fleet before meetings or rehearsals, but when in doubt, please email the Commodore for confirmation.

The appearance of the Colonial Navy of Massachusetts at the Fall River Veterans Day Parade, at a ceremony presenting military honors at the Vietnam Memorial and other memorials at Bicentennial Park, and at the Fall River Children's Holiday Parade was funded in part through a generous grant from the Fall River Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



The Pound 'n Pint Publication Dates and Article Submissions

Editor: Ron Glidden clerk@cnm1775.org

The Pound 'n Pint is published quarterly, or more frequently when additional communication to the Fleet is needed or when directed by the Commodore. Anticipated publication months are December, March, June, and September. Any member who would like to submit an article may do so at any time by contacting the Editor at clerk@cnm1775.org.



Elected Staff 2026

Commodore: Pamela Burlingame
Vice Commodore: Bob Miorelli
Chief of Staff: Bill Cary
Prizemaster: Tom Murray
Clerk: Ron Glidden

Staff Appointments

Fife Master: Captain Bill Hart
Drum Master: Sue Glidden
Marine Captain: Captain Mike Godek
Color Guard Captain: Captain Bob delaFuente
Signal: Captain Dave Kiley
Binnacle: Commodore Pamela Burlingame
Stores: Lee Singer
Grog: Laura Hadley
Pound 'n Pint: Captain Ron Glidden

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