

***RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)
invites you to attend its meeting, on Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2012.***



***First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Pl.,
Greenwich.***

WHY THE CIVIL WAR?

Speaking on the gallows on December 15 1859, John Brown foretold that “I am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land will never be purged away except with blood.” And so it came to pass.

The Civil War was fought 150 years ago but it remains alive in the consciousness of this nation. It is, together, with Abraham Lincoln, the single most written-about topic today. Generally known is the South as the “War of Northern Aggression,” and in the North as the “War of Rebellion” the Civil War was a sectional conflict with its roots embedded in political, economic, social and psychological elements so complex that historians cannot agree on its basic causes.

In the days of the American Revolution, the North and South had a common interest in separating from the King of England. As sectionalism grew, the South remained agricultural, with a social order largely founded on the plantation system, while the North was much advanced commercially and industrially. As the country expanded, greater differences began to emerge between sections of America, which reached the boiling point in several instances along our way to becoming a nation.

Richard Meyer will review the early societal pressures that divided Americans and the factors that caused the North and South to diverge in their economies, social norms, and politics, that inevitably lead to the Civil War. He will bring with him from his collection several choice weapons that were use in the War.

Mr. Meyer, who holds engineering degrees from the Universities of Wisconsin and Connecticut, is a researcher, writer and lecturer on the Civil War and Industrial History and a restorer of antique firearms. He is Secretary of the New England Antique Arms Society, and past President of the Antique Arms Collector Association of Connecticut and Ye Connecticut Gun Guild.

RMA members and their guests should arrive by 9:45 AM for our full meeting. The general public should plan to arrive at 10:45 AM. Meetings are held at the First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Place, Greenwich. No Charge and No Reservations are required. Questions about any of the above, call Bernard Schneider, 203-698-2558; bgsesq@gmail.com.