



April 2005  
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# The Battlefront

Newsletter of the Onondaga County Civil War Round Table

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## Introducing Dan Paterson

"I cherish the opportunity of sharing my family history with those in the Civil War community and educating and eliminating the mythology of the Lost Cause," said Dan Paterson of Centerville, VA, our April speaker. We welcome him to our OCCWRT to present *A Longstreet Pictorial History*, a comprehensive visual history of the Longstreet family spanning two centuries and several wars. Included are family photographs and newspaper clippings from the General's personal photo album.

Mr. Paterson is the past president of the Bull Run Round Table and board member of the Longstreet Society. He is the recipient of the United Daughters of the Confederacy *Jefferson Davis Award* for the preservation of Confederate Heritage and the *Helen Dortch Longstreet Award* presented to those who work to defend and preserve General Longstreet's reputation. Paterson is a 1981 graduate of the University of Maryland and is a Microsoft Certified System Engineer working for the National Governor's Association. Dan's mother, Jamie Louise Paterson, is the daughter of Fitz Randolph Longstreet, the General's youngest son.

General Longstreet, referred to by General Lee as "my old war horse", was one of the Confederacy's most competent corps commanders who became its most vilified in the years after Lee's death in 1870. Early southern histories steeped in the Lost Cause blamed Longstreet for the Confederacy's defeat at Gettysburg. That legacy still tarnishes Longstreet's reputation. Almost no Longstreet monuments exist today in the south. One hundred and thirty five years after the battle, in 1998, a Longstreet equestrian was finally erected at Gettysburg.

We thank Bill O'Dea, a reenactor of the 149th NYSV, and his wife for hosting Dan and his wife while they are in CNY and look forward to this unique presentation.

## The Case of the Kendall Cannon

Kendall, NY is a small village in Orleans County. They have a small cemetery, a soldiers' plot in that cemetery and a Civil War cannon standing watch over the veterans' graves, or least they used to have a Civil War cannon. As reported in the March 20, 2005 edition of the Syracuse Post-Standard, the cannon was sold and removed to Pennsylvania. The residents of Kendall are angry that the Town Board accepted \$20,000 from Kenneth Watterson and his agent, Bruce Stiles. So what's the big deal? Well, this isn't the first time a cannon has been removed from a cemetery or village green by these "gentlemen" from Pennsylvania. The scenario took place in Sidney (Delaware County) a few years ago. Further research revealed that they have repeatedly removed cannons they're interested in - Stiles' first visit to Kendall was in 2000, and he offered \$2000 for their cannon. He made subsequent visits, each time upping the offer. Finally the Board accepted his offer of \$20,000. He visits the people who know the least about the background and value of the cannons (municipal governments and cemetery boards) but who are also in the greatest need of cash. As soon as the deal is done, the cannon is whisked away to Venetia, Pennsylvania to a place called the Civil War Artillery Museum, or sometimes the Museum of the Union and Confederacy. The plot gets more complicated, but suffice it to know that cannons are gone from their rightful places, procured through less than honorable means, for uses unknown.

The good news is that this story was picked by the Associated Press so newspapers around the country ran it. The bad news is that Ben Stiles is prowling around New York State again. I called Joette Knapp, the Kendall Town historian, and assured her that the Civil War Community is outraged. We need to be vigilant and protective of local cannons (I think Oakwood and Woodlawn Cemeteries have two each), and we need to let others know what is happening - other CWRT's, the Sons of Union Veterans, re-enacting groups, and local historians. Spread the word; sound the alarm.

Sue Greenhagen  
OCCWRT Member & EatonTownHistorian

Meeting  
Thursday, April 21, 2005  
7 PM  
**A LONGSTREET  
PICTORIAL HISTORY**

Presented by  
**Dan Paterson**  
great-grandson of  
CSA General James Longstreet

Location: NYSUT Building  
Brittonfield Parkway  
East Syracuse, NY

Route 481 to Exit 7. Take Route 298 West. First left onto Brittonfield Parkway. The New York State United Teachers' Building is the third on the right. Parking in the rear. Enter by rear door.

Meetings are held at 7 PM on the third Thursday of the month from September through June. The meetings are free and open to the public.

## County Event for Civil War Flags

The successful completion of Onondaga County's effort to conserve its Civil War flags will be celebrated on Saturday, April 23, 2005 at the County Courthouse. All ten of the flags are back from the conservator and will be on display from 12 - 2 pm on the second-floor lobby of the courthouse. OCCWRT members are invited to attend as representatives of the Civil War community.

The county clerk's office has housed the flags since 1881. For many of the years they were stored in a glass-and-oak case where they slowly baked. Today they rest fully conserved under glass in the drawers of a huge display case outside the clerk's office.

Nearly one-seventh of the population of Onondaga County answered President Lincoln's call for volunteers. On Saturday, April 23rd, the county welcomes home these newly protected symbols of our county's and country's past. We congratulate County Clerk Ann Ciarpelli for her leadership in this 5-year project.

### President's Message

As I sit this April 3, 2 PM, it is snowing on Pompey Hill which means that the rest of you must be enjoying spring! I even ran into 12 inches of snow in Scranton on Holy Thursday. I've been going south so much lately that my car takes little direction.

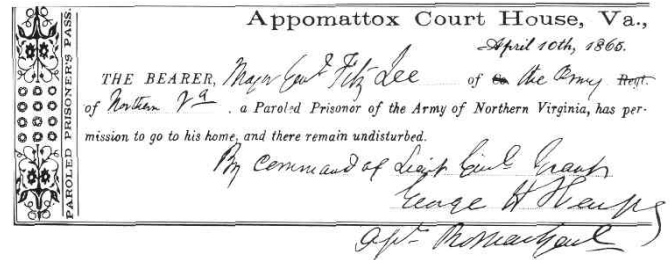
April 16-17 is the weekend that we go to do our duty at the Gettysburg Battlefield. It is going to be a busy one for all who attend. It is *History Meets the Arts* weekend, where the famous and the not so famous artists hawk their wares. It is always interesting to see the newest painting or sculpture. After we cleanup General Greene and his area on Culp's Hill and eat great pizza at Dino's, we can visit the Gettysburg College campus. There they are having *Get Acquainted Day* for accepted students. It will be our chance to see what keeps all those students busy all the time and to see where all my hard earned money goes. Then Saturday night we have been invited to attend the Gettysburg College Drama Department Production of *Diana of Dobson's*, starring our own favorite son and next month's speaker, John Rudy.

And if that is not enough to entice you to join us, on Sunday morning we will also attend the Gettysburg College Choir's Spring Concert at Christ Chapel. This will be a warm send off for our travels back to the cold and snowy north. Can you tell I'm a proud parent? Isn't it nice that they planned everything for the same weekend.

Hope to see you all at our next exciting meeting or at General Greene atop Culp's Hill at **10:30 AM** on Saturday, April 16th.

Mimi Rudy

## Appomattox Court House, Va April 10-13, 1865



At the formal surrender of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia on April 9, 1865 to General Grant, both generals asked for specific conditions to be met. General Grant required a formal stacking of arms and the confiscation of all CSA government materials. General Lee requested that his men receive some type of evidence noting they were protected prisoners. That evidence would be a written parole.

General John Gibbon was ordered to arrange for a small printing press. General George Sharpe supervised the parole operation at the Clover Hill Tavern. Printing began on the afternoon of the 10th. Though Lee's army numbered about 8,000 men, thousands of stragglers and deserters reappeared to obtain the written passes they needed to travel home safely. 28,231 such passes were issued. The one illustrated above belonged to Major General Fitzhugh Lee, Lee's nephew, and granted permission to the bearer, now a paroled prisoner of the Army of Northern Virginia, "to go to his home, and remain there undisturbed." Many ex-Confederates carried their passes for years, at first for protection and later as proof that they had been with Robert E. Lee to the end.

A Union telegrapher wrote home on April 11 describing the enormity of the parole process and of the confiscation of CSA government property. "You can imagine what an immense amount of writing has to be done to issue twenty thousand passes, to make our rolls of each command, to make inventories of all the artillery, wagons, ambulances, horses, mules, harnesses, arms, accouterments, ammunition and quartermaster and commissary stores." Grant had already left for Washington by train where he declined a theater invitation from President Lincoln. Lee had declined a Federal cavalry escort; however, Federal troopers insisted on escorting him part way home.

The day after the formal surrender ceremony of April 12th as the paroles were being issued Joshua Chamberlain wrote, "Over all the hillsides in the peaceful sunshine, are clouds of men on foot or horse, singly or in groups, making their earnest way as if by the instinct of the ant, each with his own little burden, each for his own little house." By the evening of April 13, the Army of Northern Virginia no longer existed.

*On the evening of April 14th, Lincoln attended the Ford's Theater where John Wilkes Booth waited in the wings.*

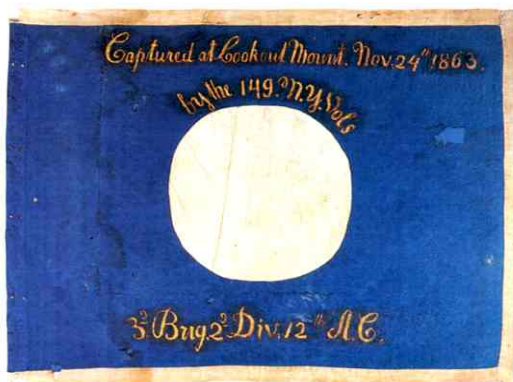
## Flags Relating to the 149th NYSV Not in the Possession of the County Clerk

It's amazing what a photo in a new Civil War book can stir up. I knew if I gave in to my curiosity I would end up spending a lot of my time in research. Well, I gave in to that darn "itch" and here are the results.



Six men of the 149th NYSV were awarded Medals of Honor for their services in the Civil War. Three of the medals were given for the capture of Confederate flags at the Battle of Lookout Mountain in November, 1863. Above is the flag I found in that darn book. Clearly written on it is the fact that it was captured by the 149th NYSV at Lookout Mountain. In fine print next to the flag, credit is given to the Museum of the Confederacy with no mention of who in the 149th captured it.

My next mistake was to call Dorothy DeAngelo and in passing I mentioned my find. Within the hour, Dorothy called back with a discovery of her own. Below is her find. Another captured Confederate flag by the 149th again housed in the Museum of the Confederacy. No mention of who captured it. Obviously a slightly different flag meaning a different person captured this one.



My next step was to check the OR's for a report of the capture of these flags. Voila! Colonel Randall of the 149th did write one and it was in the Official Records. I include Randall's scrupulously detailed report of the captures below. Proper documentation was necessary to insure the captor received recognition, most likely the Medal of Honor.

O.R.-- SERIES I--VOLUME XXXI/2  
[S# 55]

**NOVEMBER 23-27, 1863.--The  
Chattanooga-Ringgold Campaign.  
No. 127.--Reports of Lieut. Col.  
Charles B. Randall, One hundred and  
forty-ninth New York Infantry.**

HEADQUARTERS 149TH NEW YORK  
VOLUNTEERS,  
*Wauhatchie, Tenn., December 4, 1863.*

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to transmit herewith the Confederate flags captured by my command in the assault upon Lookout Mountain, November 24, 1863, and at the battle of Ringgold, November 27.]

The circumstances attending their capture, their description, and the names of the persons taking them, are as follows: Two of them are battle flags, one 3 feet 2 inches long and 2 feet 7 inches wide; dark blue ground-work, a white border 2 inches in width, with a white oblong center 11 inches in perpendicular depth, and 16½ inches in length. The other is 3 feet and 2 inches in length, 2 feet 8 inches in width, white border 1½ inches deep, dark blue ground-work, with round white center 14½ inches in diameter. The one with the oblong center was taken from the hands of the rebel sergeant who carried it by First Sergt. Norman F. Potter, (\*) Company E, while in advance of our line, and near the beginning of the felled timber beyond the rebel camps on Lookout Mountain. He disarmed the sergeant and passed him to the rear a prisoner. Sergeant Potter was afterward severely wounded and is now in hospital.

The other was also taken from the sergeant who bore it by Private Peter Kappesser, (\*) Company B, as our line was charging through the rebel camps on Lookout. This sergeant was also disarmed and passed to the rear a prisoner.

The large flag--the Stars and Bars of the Confederacy--is 6 feet 9 inches long and 3 feet 7 inches wide, with a blue rectangular field 2 feet 4 inches by 2 feet 3 inches, containing thirteen eight-pointed stars, nine arranged in a circle and four constituting an arc within the circle and resting on the lower part; the bars extending horizontally, of nearly equal width, and arranged--red, white, red.

### *So why are these flags in Richmond?*

The remaining one is a blue battery guidon, 1 foot 10 inches long and 1 foot 5 inches wide, with a white border 2½ inches deep.

These last two were taken by Private Philip Goettel, Company B, at the battle of Ringgold, near the position occupied by the rebel guns that bore upon our regiment, having been left upon the ground when the enemy were driven back by our fire. There was no inscription upon either of the flags. We do not know to what regiments or battery the captured flags belonged.

We have placed upon the first two the following inscription: Captured at Lookout Mountain, November 24, 1863, by the One hundred and forty-ninth New York Volunteers, Third Brigade, Second Division, Twelfth Army Corps," and upon the last two the following inscription: "Captured at Ringgold, November 27, 1863, by the One hundred and forty-ninth New York Volunteers, Third Brigade, Second Division, Twelfth Army Corps."

Another flag, similar to the first two described, was taken by Private McAllister, Company I, in the assault upon Lookout Mountain. McAllister was afterward severely wounded and taken to hospital, carrying the flag with him. We have been unable to learn to what hospital he has been taken or to obtain possession of the flag.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

**C.B. RANDALL,**  
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding*

Capt. THOMAS ELLIOTT  
Assistant Adjutant-General

My call to the Museum of the Confederacy confirmed the flags were there. In fact, the Museum had identified each Confederate regiment from which the flag had been captured. Col. Randall did not have that information. The Museum stated that the Hardee flag I had found had been captured from the 29th Mississippi Infantry by Sergeant Norman F. Potter. Darothy's Hardee flag was captured from the 34th Mississippi Infantry by Private Peter Kappesser. The Stars and Bars captured by Private Philip Goettel from Semple's Alabama Light Artillery also resides in the Museum as does the blue battery guidon. The Private McAllister flag has not surfaced. Potter, Kappesser, and Goettel were each awarded the Medal of Honor in June of 1865. A fourth Medal of Honor was awarded to Sgt. John Kiggins for distinguished bravery at Lookout Mountain, not for a flag capture.

Captured flags were either turned into army command, or sent to their respective state houses, or were kept by the men of the regiment as trophies. By the end of the Civil War at least 500 Confederate flags were in the possession of the War Department. In 1887 President Cleveland ordered the return of the captured flags from the War Department to their respective Southern states. When the order became public, Lucius Fairchild, the ex-colonel of the 2nd Wisconsin of the Iron Brigade and now the National Commander of 400,000 GAR members, delivered this denouncement of President Cleveland's action: "May God *palsy* the hand that wrote the order! May God *palsy* the brain that conceived it! And may God *palsy* the tongue that dictated it! I appeal to the sentiment of the nation to prevent this sacrilege." The flags stayed in Washington.

Again in 1905, Teddy Roosevelt and a Congressional Resolution directed Secretary of War, William Howard Taft, to return the flags to their respective states in a gesture of reconciliation. This time the flags did leave Washington. Virginia's Museum of the Confederacy received 75 Virginia flags. In 1906 Washington sent the Museum another 252 Confederate flags of unknown origin. This shipment most likely included the Potter, Goettel, and Kappesser flags. Many of the Confederate flags in possession of the Northern states were also returned. In the 1940's the descendants of Joshua Chamberlain returned 2 Confederate flags. Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, New York and Wisconsin along with the Chicago Historical Society retained possession of some of their captured flags. Even today Minnesota refuses to return a Virginia flag. Ex-governor Jessie Ventura, never the diplomat, told the state of Virginia, "Sorry, you lost." When I asked the Museum if Onondaga County could have the three flags back for the April 23rd county event, I heard only a stifled chuckle.

As the men of the 149th NYSV were painting their inscriptions onto these captured flags (see Randall's report), little did they realize that when the routed CSA Army of Tennessee under Braxton Bragg left Chattanooga, that area would become General Sherman's supply base for the 1864 Atlanta Campaign. The 149th would participate in that campaign as well.

*My thanks to Cara Griggs, Research Associate from the Museum of the Confederacy, for two very detailed research e-mails about the 149th NYSV flags that are in the Museum and one long telephone call to answer my many queries.*

*Editor*

## Treasurer's Report

Preservation Fund: \$1977.67  
General Fund: \$1828.34

We welcome new members Ted Jones and John Wesche.  
Total membership is now 50 paid members.

Dave Osborn, Treasurer

## Assassination Trivia from CW Interactive

The night Lincoln was shot, another high-ranking US government official was attacked and repeatedly stabbed in the face and throat as he lay in his bed recuperating from a carriage accident a week earlier. Lincoln had rushed to this man's bed after the carriage accident, had stretched himself out on the bed with his face next to his closest friend in government, and had given him a blow-by-blow account of events on the front. This man would recover to serve at his post again. Name the man who was stabbed as well as the man who held his office while he recovered from the carriage accident and the assassination attempt. *Correct answer wins a free chance for the April book raffle.*

## White House Post-Mortem

from *Lincoln, An Illustrated Biography* by Kunhardt

*Six physicians tended Lincoln's body in the White House and assisted in the Post-mortem. Edward Curtis, a young assistant surgeon in the medical corps, was one of them. Here, in a letter to his mother written a week later, Curtis describes the scene.*

A week ago today, Dr. Woodward and myself were ordered by the surgeon general to make a post-mortem examination, in his presence, on the body of the President. Accordingly, at 11 o'clock we assembled at the White House in the room where the body lay...It contained but little furniture: a large, heavily-curtained bed, a sofa or two, bureau, wardrobe and chairs comprised all there was. Seated around the room were several general officers and some civilians, silent or conversing in whispers, and to one side, stretched upon a rough framework of boards and covered only with sheets and towels, lay, cold and immovable, what but a few hours before was the soul of a great nation...The surgeon general was walking up and down the room when I arrived...Dr. Woodward and I proceeded to open the head and remove the brain down to the track of the ball...Not finding it readily, we proceeded to remove the entire brain, when as I was lifting the latter from the cavity of the skull, suddenly the bullet dropped out through my fingers and fell, breaking the solemn silence of the room with its clatter, into an empty basin that was standing beneath. There it lay upon the white china, a little black mass no bigger than the end of my finger - dull, motionless and harmless, yet the cause of such mighty changes in the world's history as we may perhaps never realize.

## Onondaga County Civil War Round Table New Membership/Renewal Form

### Membership dues of the OCCWRT are:

Please Check one of the Following

- \$20.00 a year  
 O.H.A. members \$5.00  
 Seniors and Students \$15.00  
 Family rate (2 or more) \$30.00

### Dues may be paid at meetings or sent to:

Onondaga County Civil War Round Table  
ATTN: Dave Osborn, Treasurer  
2 Thistlewood Lane  
Fayetteville, NY 13066

Please find \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed in form of  
Circle One:

Check   M.O.   Cash

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

The Onondaga County Civil War Round Table was organized in 1994 and is now an incorporated non-profit educational organization. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month from September through June. The purpose of the OCCWRT is to stimulate and encourage interest in the American Civil War, to assist in community service in order to enhance the study and understanding of the Civil War, to provide educational and historical research of the period, and to promote historic preservation.

*Onondaga County*  
*Civil War Round Table* 2589 Gardner Road Fabius, NY 13063