



April 2009
Volume 15 Number 8

The Battlefield

Newsletter of the Onondaga County Civil War Round Table

April 16th Meeting

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During this Lincoln Bicentennial Year as we celebrate the life and accomplishments of our 16th president, we must also recognize when on Good Friday, April 14, 1865 five days after the April 9th surrender of Lee's army, Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth. Lincoln died early the next morning, and with him died all hope of piecing the Union together without bitterness. On the 144th anniversary of Lincoln's death, Terence Kehoe will take us through the planning, execution and the 12 day hunt for the assassin, John Wilkes Booth.

Terence Kehoe is a retired high school math teacher who presently teaches math and physics as an adjunct instructor at SUNYIT in Utica. He also participates in the *Learning in Retirement* program at the school where he teaches a course on Abraham Lincoln and a course on Theodore Dreiser's novel *An American Tragedy*. After reading James Swanson's book *Manhunt*, Terence toured the route of Booth's escape and photographed those sites for his presentation.

Join us on Thursday, April 16th as we follow the escape route of the century's most heinous criminal to his final exit. After being cornered, shot and dragged out of a burning tobacco barn onto the porch of a Virginia farmhouse, the paralyzed Booth whispered his last words. "I did what I thought was best."

March Meeting

After traveling one hour from Frankfort, NY to our meeting site, Dick and Karen Brown stopped at a nearby Subway to have a quick bite to give Dick a few minutes to go over his notes on William Quantrill, Dick's topic for our March meeting. That's when Dick and Karen realized that neither had picked up the green bag by the door as they left their house. Did Dick enjoy his sandwich? Probably not. Did he panic? Absolutely not.

He began his presentation with an admission of his forgetfulness. Member Sue Greenhagen, a veteran lecturer, jokingly told Dick that during the next hour he would be tap dancing on water. And for the next hour Dick engaged the OCCWRT with an articulate history of the border war in Kansas starring William Quantrill, psychopath extraordinaire. Dick effortlessly led us through Quantrill's guerrilla operations including the destruction of Lawrence, Kansas in 1863. He didn't miss a date, name, or an event. Congratulations, Dick. Now we know it is possible to gracefully tap dance on water.

Directions to Town of DeWitt Community Room

From 481N take Exit 5W to Kirkville Rd West. Merge onto Kirkville Rd and travel 1.2 miles. Turn right onto Kinne St and travel 0.7 miles. Turn right at Sanders Creek Parkway and travel 0.2 miles to 148 Sanders Creek Parkway, the site of the East Syracuse Fire Department and the Town of DeWitt Community Room.

Meeting Site

Town of DeWitt Community Room

148 Sanders Creek Parkway
East Syracuse, New York

Terence Kehoe
presents

*The Pursuit and Capture
of
John Wilkes Booth*

Thursday, April 16,, 2009
7:00 PM

Our 15th Year!

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

Thank You for Your Dues

2008-09 dues paid as of April 15, 2009: Patricia Arvantides, Lisa Bradley, Bob & Kathy Brown, Mike Carpenter, Scott Cauger, Marion Chester, Dick Crozier, Gordon Cruickshank, Dave Cuculich, Collyn Conrad and Mom, Darohty DeAngelo, Frank DeGrenier, Jim Dromgoole, Nancy Edwards, David Fedele family, Bill Goodwin, Beth Greenfield, Sue Greenhagen, Diane Haller, Lamont Hahn, Ruth Hotaling, Ted Jones, Martin Joyce, Jim Kellogg, Cheryl LaManche, Kevin Milcarek, John Murray, Steve Nathan, Brian Nilsson, William O'Leary, Jane Maher Proper, M. Kent Russell, Kathy Ryan, Richard Scott, Charles Snyder, Pat Stepanek, Rich & Natalie Trump, Elaine Tucker, Eleanor & James Tyler, Valerie Williams, Marcus & Kristy Lee Witt, Fred Wyker. 47 members

Bring Your Own Cup to the April Meeting

Congratulations, Sue

Member/Trustee Sue Greenhagen was recently awarded an entry into the 2008-2009 *Who's Who of American Women* for demonstrating *outstanding achievement in their own fields of endeavor and who have, thereby, contributed significantly to the betterment of contemporary society*. Sue is a librarian at SUNY Morrisville, is the town of Eaton historian, webmaster of the *New York and the Civil War* website and lecturer of local and Civil War history. Recently she was featured as a researcher in a PBS *History Detectives* segment.

2009 Historic Oakwood Cemetery Tours

The following free Sunday tours begin at the Chapel at 2 PM:

May 24: ***From the Ground Up: Design and Plantings of the Old Cemetery***. George Curry, Prof. Of Landscape Architecture ESF, will lead a tour focusing on the artistic, as well as the natural aspect of the old cemetery.

June 28: ***Dames, Damsels, and Dingbats*** Margaret Olivia Slocum Sage (Sue Greenhagen) will introduce us to some of the amazing women buried in the historic cemetery.

July 26: ***Musty, Mossy, and Marvelous Mausoleums*** Darohty DeAngelo will lead a tour of some of the GREAT Mausoleums of the cemetery. (One cost the equivalent of over \$350,000 back in 1866!)

Aug. 23 ***Rebellion Ramble: What Confederate?*** Our tour guide will be Sheriff William F. Bonney of Madison County. He'll introduce us to the many Civil War personalities buried in Oakwood. Bonney will be portrayed by Sue Greenhagen.

Sept. 20 ***Judges, Mayors and Other Political ilk*** Dennis Connors, Onondaga Historical Association's Curator of History, will identify many of the prominent public servants of years past. Come and meet the politicians for whom many schools, streets, and parks are named.

January Jeopardy Preparation

This is the only individual enlisted man to have a monument on the Gettysburg battlefield.

This is the only town north of the Mason-Dixon Line burned by the Confederates.



Lincoln in Paint and Print May 13-17, 2009 Homer, NY

For five days in May, the village of Homer, NY will celebrate its historical ties to President Abraham Lincoln by recognizing three native-sons: a painter, an editor and a detective. This event has been endorsed by the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission in Washington, D.C. as one of many across the nation that will be providing educational activities to recognize the 200th birthday of America's sixteenth President. Harold Holzer, a noted Lincoln scholar and co-chairman of the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, will be the centerpiece of this celebration.

Three Homerians played significant roles in Lincoln's legacy. Francis Bicknell Carpenter (1830-1900) painted *The First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation before the Cabinet* during a six-month stay at the White House. The famous oil painting of the momentous event now hangs in the Capitol Building in our nation's capital. William Osborn Stoddard (1835-1925) moved to Illinois, wrote an editorial nominating Lincoln for the Presidency, and became an assistant personal secretary to Lincoln. He was responsible for making handwritten copies of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Both men went on to write books of their interactions with President Lincoln that Lincoln scholars still use today. Eli Devoe (1809-1874) risked his life to ensure the president's safety. Devoe and another detective infiltrated a group in Baltimore called the Knights of the Golden Circle. This group had planned an attack on Lincoln along his inaugural route to Washington. Lincoln was convinced to follow the detectives' plans to foil the plot. Devoe narrowly escaped Baltimore alive.

Calendar of Homer Lincoln Bicentennial Events

Wednesday, May 13th 7:30 PM: Kick-off event at **Center for the Arts, 72 S. Main St**, featuring Kim Hubbard on Abolitionism and Musical Entertainment. No Fee

Thursday, May 14th 7:30 PM: Homer's Center for the Arts hosts the presentation of ***Freedom***, an engaging one-act play written by local playwright William Allen. This will be followed by America's foremost Lincoln impersonator, **Mr. James Gettys** of Gettysburg, PA.

Friday, May 15th 9AM-4 PM: Annual Sgt. Ken Eaton Memorial Living History Day on the grounds of the Living History Complex less than a mile south of the village on Route 11 featuring an artillery firing by teenage members of the nationally known Living History Club. A memorial ceremony begins at 9 AM.

Friday, May 15th 7-9 PM: **The Bonne Auditorium of Homer Intermediate School, 58 Clinton St**, hosts an evening recognition of William Osborn Stoddard and his descendants. Nationally recognized Lincoln scholar **Harold Holzer** will give a lecture on William Stoddard, his connection to Lincoln, and his literary contribution to our current understanding of Lincoln. A book signing by Holzer and Stoddard's grand-daughter, Eleanor, will follow from 8-15-9:15 PM. No Fee

Homer Lincoln Bicentennial Events Cont'd

Saturday, May 16th 9 AM: A commemorative parade from Warren Street to the **Glenwood Cemetery, 31 N. Main St corner of Rt. 281 & Rt. 90**, for a brief ceremony and wreath laying on the final resting place of Francis Bicknell Carpenter. A similar ceremony will occur at the same time on the site of William Osborn Stoddard's grave in Madison, NJ.

Saturday, May 16th 2-3 PM: **The Bonne Auditorium of the Homer Intermediate School**, 58 Clinton St, hosts a recognition of Carpenter and his descendants. **Francis B. Carpenter, His Interaction With Lincoln and His Artistic Contributions to Our Understanding of Lincoln, the Man**, a lecture by **Harold Holzer**. A book signing by Holzer will follow from 3:15-4:15 PM. No Fee

Saturday, May 16th 2-4 PM: Complimentary Civil War era **Victorian Tea** featuring a variety of hot teas and Mary Todd and Abraham Lincoln's favorite finger foods and sandwiches. This celebration of Lincoln's life will be held at the gracious **Elizabeth Brewster House**, located in the historic village of Homer. The American Association of University Woman will be available for an informal discussion of the rights of women and related topics during this period of American culture.

Saturday May 16th: Civil War re-enactors' encampment on the Homer Green with candlelit homes and businesses in the village.

Sunday, May 17th 11AM-Noon: Civil War Era church service at the **Homer Congregation Church** on the Green honoring William Wallace Carpenter, Francis B. Carpenter's brother who died from wounds suffered at Gettysburg. Included will be an

exhibit of portraits of William Wallace Carpenter and his sister Henrietta.

Sunday, May 17th 1 PM: On the village bandstand a reading of the *Gettysburg Address*, a portion of the *Emancipation Proclamation*, and Lincoln's *Second Inaugural* by descendants of Stoddard and Carpenter.

Sunday, May 17th 2:30 PM: Jason Emerson, Lincoln scholar and our September 2009 speaker, will discuss his books, *The Madness of Mary Lincoln* and *Lincoln the Inventor* at the Phillips Free Library in the center of the Homer village. Book signing to follow. No Fee

Congratulations to the Homer Center for the Arts and the Homer Education Foundation for organizing this fine program of events. www.lincolnpaintandprint.org is the website for the event. Three miles north of Homer on the east side of Rt. 11 is the Carpenter home. It has a Cortland County historic highway sign.

Rededication of General Sumner's Tomb

This event will be on Sunday, **May 31st** at 2 PM. The program will be finalized by the May newsletter. Just thought you might like to plan for another May event, this one sponsored by the OCCWRT.

Seven days of May events are listed above. No need for a meeting in May.



Onondaga County Civil War Round Table

New Member/Renewal Form

Membership dues of the OCCWRT are:

Please Check one of the Following

_____ \$20.00 a year

_____ O.H.A. members \$10.00

_____ 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: A. Scott Cauger Treasurer

216 Windebank Lane

Minoa, NY 13116

**Please find \$ _____ enclosed in form of
Circle One:**

Check M.O. Cash

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Please check if you prefer an emailed newsletter and can receive an Acrobat (pdf) file.

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 PO Box 175 Tully, NY 13159-0175

Complete Schedule of May Events