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The Battlefield

Newsletter of the Onondaga County Civil War Round Table

2005-06 OCCWRT Officers

Mimi Rudy, Co-President
315 677-9743
mimirudy@twcny.rr.com

Beth Greenfield, Co-President
315 363-0012
BGreenfield@oneidahealthcare.org

Sue Greenhagen, Vice President
315 684-3418
greenhsh@morrisville.edu

Dave Osborn, Treasurer
315 446-1715

Bill Goodwin, Secretary/Publicity
315 437-3887

Dick Crozier, Trustee
607 753-9803
dickcrozier@yahoo.com

Kevin Milcarek, Trustee
315 374-2218

Darothy DeAngelo, Program Chair
315 682-6312
darothy__@hotmail.com

Pat Stepanek, Newsletter Editor
315 696-5531
pstepane@ix.netcom.com

Meeting Site

February 16, 2006
7 PM

Eastwood Baptist Church
3212 James Street
Eastwood, NY

Lincoln and Kennedy: Parallels and Coincidences

Presented by Cheryl Pula

Directions: Route 690 East to Midler Ave Exit. North on Midler to James St. Right on James. Church will be two blocks from Midler on the right.

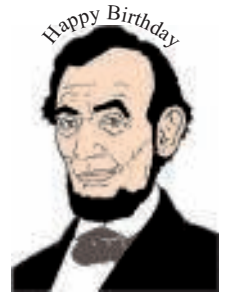
Meetings are held at 7 PM on the third Thursday of the month from September through June and are free and open to the public.

Lincoln and Kennedy: Parallels and Coincidences

Cheryl Pula of the Butterfield Round Table and a frequent speaker to the OCCWRT will offer us over 100 similarities between Lincoln and JFK, including their lives, families, presidencies, assassinations and funerals. Cheryl writes that she also has coincidences and parallels between their wives, vice-presidents, and assassins. This study was originally written in 1983



when a friend of Cheryl's, a talk show host on WIBX in Utica, asked her to research the parallels between the Lincoln and Kennedy assassinations and then come on the radio show. She was on the show for 3 hours. She has continued her research and turned it into a concise and commanding Power Point presentation. Join us for an interesting study of history repeating itself.



President's Letter

Thanks to all of you who came to our last meeting to learn about our local 19th century architecture. I recognized quite a few of the "old" places. I am hoping that you will join us this month to hear the fascinating coincidences that surround the Presidents Lincoln and Kennedy. It was my admiration for Abe that first started my research and interest in the Civil War. So this should be an interesting presentation.

I also want to encourage you to start thinking about joining us in Gettysburg on April 8th for our semi-annual Adopt-A-Position clean-up. It will be a wonderful time to visit the battlefield with spring already arriving in the "south." This is one of the reasons the Round Table exists: to promote restoration and preservation of Civil War era memorials. Maybe we can even talk my son into leading us on his very own historic walking tour of the college campus! Are you listening, John? Please consider lending a hand. See you all at the February meeting

MimiRudy

Another CNY/Lincoln Connection

Most of us have heard of John Hay and John G. Nicolay, Lincoln's secretaries. Another secretary was added as the mass of correspondence grew too great for Hay and Nicolay to handle. William O. Stoddard (1835-1925) of Homer, NY became third secretary in late 1861 and remained at his post until 1864. Stoddard's other duty was to handle Mrs. Lincoln's mail and to attend to whatever other demands she might have. Hay and Nicolay were only too glad to hand over the "Hell-Cat" to Stoddard. As editor of the *Central Illinois Gazette*, Stoddard had been an early supporter of Lincoln. Stoddard took pride in claiming that he personally made the first copy of the draft Emancipation in September 1862. After the CW, he made his living as a writer in New York City. *Inside the White House In War Times* by Stoddard has recently been reprinted. In the January 2005 newsletter, Francis Bicknell Carpenter was featured. Also from Homer, NY, he spent six months in the White House while he painted *The Preliminary Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation* which hangs today in the US Capitol.

Substitute (?) for Abraham Lincoln

From: *Lincoln Herald, Volume 80, Number 3 (Fall 1978)*

In the Stroudsburg, PA Lower Main Street Cemetery a simple tombstone reads:

J. Summerfield Staples

a private of

Co. C 176 Reg. P.V.

Also a member of

2 Reg. D.C. Vols. as a

Substitute for Abraham Lincoln

Died Jan. 11, 1888

The designation of *substitute* is technically incorrect. J. Summerfield Staples was the *representative recruit* for Lincoln. On June 26, 1864 James Fry, Provost Marshal General, issued a circular announcing that TMpersons **not** required by law to perform military dutyš could be represented in the Army by securing a recruit at their own expenseš and paying that recruit a bounty. The recruit would be listed in the Army's official records along with the name of the person he represented.

The Representative Recruit Program was devised in part as a method for relieving the unpopular draft. In September 1864, Lincoln decided he would place Staples as his representative from DC. Lincoln paid a \$500 bounty with a check drawn on The Riggs Bank of Washington. Young Staples and his father were invited to appear in President Lincoln's office on October 1, 1864 for the official ceremony. This was the second time Staples had served as a substitute. He had served as a private in the 176th PA Drafted Militia Infantry for Sergeant Barry of Monroe County, PA until his discharge in May 1863 suffering from typhoid fever and a TMbroken down constitution.š

During Staples' second stint in the Army, he served with Company D, Second District of Columbia Infantry stationed at Alexandria, Virginia in the defenses of Washington.

The Representative Recruit Program, publicly supported by President Lincoln, was not particularly successful though it was publicized throughout the nation. Only 1,296 recruits were placed in service. Massachusetts furnished 586 recruits and Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio furnished a total of 344 recruits. The balance was made up of recruits representing such notables as Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, James Russell Lowell, Edward Everett, and Davis Wilmott, and recruits representing a few married women, widows, young boys and girls. The sponsors were given a certificate acknowledging their *patriotism and public spirit* and noting that they were *not required by law to perform any military service and had voluntarily and at his own expense furnished...a representative recruit to serve in his stead.*

For a time, Staples worked as a wheelwright in the railroad car shops in Waterloo, New York and Dover, New Jersey. He died in New Jersey in 1888 from heart disease believed to have been the result of the typhoid fever suffered during his first Army service. He was never able to collect the pension which he first sought in July 1882.

For many years the citizens of Stroudsburg have revived the memory of Lincoln's TMsubstitutešon Lincoln's birthday with a ceremony in the cemetery.

A Glimpse into Lincoln's Humor

Lyndon Johnson once characterized the presidency as TMbeing like a jackass in a hailstorm. There's nothing to do but to stand there and take it.š Abraham Lincoln epitomizes this sentiment. For most of his presidency he was pelted by Congress, the press, his friends, and even his own cabinet as disunion and civil war continued. Lincoln once told his feuding cabinet, TMIf I did not laugh occasionally I should die, and you need this medicine as much as I do.š Lincoln's seemingly inexhaustible supply of stories was his safety valve which he used deliberately and strategically to defuse tension, illuminate a point, put others at ease, and disarm political rivals. Humor was his survival tool. What follows are a few instances of his disarming humor taken from Doris Kearns Goodwin's *Team of Rivals: The Policial Genius of Abraham Lincoln*.

Shortly after McCellan's disastrous Peninsula Campaign and Pope's loss at Second Manassas, Lincoln, with TMgrim levityš, told of his response to a man who had been asking for a pass to Richmond for weeks. TMWell,š said Lincoln, TMI would be very happy to oblige you, if my passes were respected; but the fact is, sir, I have, within the past two years, given passes to two hundred and fifty thousand men to go to Richmond, and not one has got there yet.š No doubt War Secretary Stanton would not have laughed. However, Lincoln laughed and was transformed from sadness, at least for the moment.

Within Lincoln's cabinet was the Secretary of the Treasury, Salmon Chase, who lusted for the Presidency. Lincoln's secretary, John Hay, was vexed by those ambitions and made that known to Lincoln who put Hay at ease with an illustrative story. Lincoln reminded Hay of the TMtime when he was plowing corn on a Kentucky farm with a lazy horse that suddenly sped forward energetically to the end of the furrow. Upon reaching the horse, he discovered an enormous chin-fly fastened upon him, and knocked it off.š Lincoln's friend told him that was a mistake for TMthat's all that made him go.š Lincoln continued, TMIf Mr. Chase has a presidential chin-fly biting him, I'm not going to knock it off, if it will only make his department go.š His point was made clear to Hay. Chase had done a masterful job of financing the war. Lincoln needed him in the cabinet.

Admiral Porter remembered April 4, 1865, the day Lincoln entered Richmond after its fall. Hoping that Lincoln could enter the TMconquered capital in a manner befitting the rank of the President of the United Statesš, Porter was horrified to find that Lincoln had to transfer from the *Malvern*, Porter's flagship blocked by wreckage in the James River, to a tug that went aground, and finally to a row boat guided around torpedoes and debris by a dozen sailors. Lincoln eased Porter's concern by telling him of an man who had approached him seeking a high position as a consulate minister. TMFinding he would not get that job, he came down to some more modest position. Finally he asked to be made a tide-waiter (customs official). When he saw he could not get that, he asked me for an old pair of trousers. But it is well to be humble,š Lincoln concluded to Porter.

Lincoln's wealth of anecdotes helped sustain him during his years of standing in the TMhailstorm.š In spite of his indomitable sense of purpose and the clarity and eloquence of his letters, speeches and comments, there were those he could not reach. When a man who opposed Lincoln's political views told Lincoln he could not understand his speeches, Lincoln replied, TMThere are always some fleas a dog just can't reach.š Lincoln's face would brighten momentarily for none enjoyed his stories more than Mr. Lincoln himself.

Ulster County Civil War Round Table



Sue Greenhagen addressed the UCCWRT this past November. Sister Darothy DeAngelo went along to help and/or hinder Sue as she presented *The Artwork of Gettysburg*, a remarkable pictorial study of the Gettysburg battlefield monuments. Standing with Sue and Darothy is Joel Craig, president of the round table. After the meeting at the County Building in Kingston, NY, Sue and Darothy met with friends from the area who had come to hear Sue speak. The OCCWRT duo spent the night in Kingston and traveled home the next day, rested, and still speaking to one another!

Reminders

Gettysburg Adopt-A-Position Weekend

Saturday, April 8th the OCCWRT will meet at 10 AM on Culp's Hill at Gettysburg. There we will continue with our field maintenance near the site of General George Greene's portrait statue. Be prepared to rake, clear brush and litter, plant grass, remove small trees. Then join us at Dino's for our usual pizza luncheon. Think about it and let Pat Stepanek know if you will join us for what is always an exciting weekend.

General Sumner Raffle

Raffle tickets will be available through our June meeting for the framed portrait of the General. This 41-year veteran of the US Army began his career in 1819 in the Black Hawk War. This old warrior's command made most of the futile assaults against Marye's Heights during the Battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862. After Gen. Burnside was relieved of command, Sumner requested other duty. On his way to his new command in the Department of the Missouri, he stopped in Syracuse to visit his daughter where he died in March 1863. Raising funds for the preservation of his grave site in Oakwood Cemetery is our Round Table's current preservation project.

Our Fiscal Year

Currently we have 38 members who have paid their dues for the 2005-06 fiscal year which began in September and will end in June. Please consider becoming a paid member by filling out the membership form on the back of this newsletter and either mail it or give it to Dave Osborn at our next meeting.

Gone! Obsolete!

After 145 years, a technological era ends with little fanfare. Western Union has quietly stopped sending telegrams as of January 27, 2006. The world's first telegram was sent on May 24, 1844 from Washington to Baltimore by inventor Samuel Morse with the message, "What hath God wrought." By 1861, Western Union had created a coast-to-coast network of lines. Some of the company highlights include: 1866 - introduced the first stock ticker; 1871 - introduced money transfers; 1884 - became one of the original 11 stocks tracked by the Dow Jones Average; 1914 - introduced the first consumer charge card; 1964 - began using a transcontinental microwave beam to replace land lines; 1974 - launched Westar 1, the first US dedicated communications satellite. Final nail in the telegram's coffin - EMAIL.

Our Wisconsin Member

Beth Greenfield reports that Richard Miller (not Millen) of Madison, Wisconsin is, in fact, her cousin. He has done extensive work with family trees on both sides of his family. One of his ancestors fought with the Confederates at Gettysburg. In spite of that fact, we welcome him to the OCCWRT.

A Gettysburg Monument in the Confederate Capitol

Long after Pickett's Charge on July 3, 1863, the survivors of Pickett's division raised funds to erect a monument to their division on the Gettysburg Battlefield where so many of their comrades had lost their lives. The monument was a granite structure with several pillars. They planned to place it just inside the stone wall near "The Angle." Guess what? The Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association, the overseers of the park at the time, would not allow this monument to be placed within an area that Union soldiers had occupied and defended. Pickett's men then chose to place the monument at the site of their commander's grave in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond. In 1998, Mrs. Pickett's remains were relocated from an Arlington, VA mausoleum to Hollywood Cemetery and were buried at the base of her husband's grave. The GBMA did relent a bit in 1887 and allowed a marker to General Armistead, of Pickett's division, to be placed near "The Angle."



Onondaga County
Civil War Round Table PO Box 175 Tully, NY 13159-0175

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

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.