**February Meeting**

Baldwinsville’s Stephen Dreher is undoubtedly an expert on the First New York Light Artillery, Battery B. He has spent years researching this battery recruited by Captain Rufus D. Pettit, a Baldwinsville area native. Battery B was composed chiefly of Onondaga County men and mustered into service in August 1861 serving in twenty-two engagements, including Gettysburg, with the Army of the Potomac until mustered out and honorably discharged in June 1865. Mr. Dreher will focus on the Battery’s arrival in Washington, DC in November 1861, one of the first to arrive in Washington fully mounted and soon to become famous for its accurate firing. Join us on February 21st for Stephen Dreher’s presentation *Battery B Goes To Washington.*

**January Jeopardy Challenge**

Five teams competed for the top spot in our Jeopardy Challenge. The top team included Beth Greenfield, Gilles Roy, Gordon Cruickshank, Darothy DeAngelo, and Ted Jones. This year’s categories focused on Losing Commanders in the Eastern Theater, Specific Terms, Famous Names, Info from the Newsletter, What Ever Became Of, and Potpourri. The final Jeopardy category was Military Terms and stated: *This military term means the art of maneuvering troops in order to achieve victory in combat.* Two teams correctly answered with the term “tactics”, each team carefully planning its final wager. Congratulations to all the teams and we’ll do it all again next January.

To keep you all thinking about the Civil War, here’s another challenge for you. The general’s identity will be revealed at our February meeting.

*This forgotten general was born in NY state. He not only helped win the CW, but also aided in our victory in WWII - this is not a typo. He fought in all three theaters of the CW, commanded the entire US Army in the late 80’s, and was the superintendent of West Point AND - realizing that Hawaii was vital in the defense of the US, he proposed in 1872 that Pearl Harbor be used as a naval base. It might help to know that he was A. Johnson’s Secretary of War, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1889 for Wilson’s Creek, retired as Lt. General, and was buried in Arlington in 1906.*

**Remembering Lincoln**

In 1832 as Lincoln prepared to run for a seat in the Illinois General Assembly, an election he lost, he issued his first political announcement. He ended by saying “…I have no other [ambition] so great as that of being truly esteemed of my fellow men, by rendering myself worthy of their esteem.” Not to worry Mr. President.

There are 27 states, some 52 towns, 23 counties and 6 mountains in the US that bear the name of Lincoln. He is additionally honored by having his name affixed to innumerable schools, banks, public buildings and roads. A submarine, an aircraft carrier, a tunnel and a center have been named for him, and the Ford Motor Company used his name to connote superior quality for its Lincoln town car. On Feb. 12th, his 199th birthday, the Mountain Creek ski area in Vernon, NJ will issue a free lift ticket to anyone who can recite the Gettysburg Address. Two of our most circulated monetary units, the penny and the five dollar bill, display his graven likeness. Children still play with Lincoln logs. Artist Wendy Allen has spent the last 25 years painting Lincoln’s face exclusively and says she has yet to exhaust the inspiration she finds in his face. This past week a cottage on the grounds of the Soldiers’ Home, Lincoln’s retreat outside of Washington, DC, opened to the public following a $15 million restoration. As the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial approaches, interest in Lincoln seems insatiable. Indeed, Mr. President, you are “truly esteemed.”
From the Daily Democrat (Rochester, NY) Nov. 7, 1864:

Since Saturday a good deal of excitement has prevailed in the city, owing to a belief that the authorities had reason to expect an attack from rebel refugees harbored in Canada. Mayor Brackett received information from an agent of the United States government on the other side, that...evil disposed persons would probably make an attempt to burn the city.

Rochester officials had good reason to fear armed invasion. During the War of 1812, at least 13 British warships appeared in the lake close to Rochester. In 1864, fears were that Confederate agents and sympathizers would cross the lake from Canada and attack Rochester, similar to the raid in St. Albans, VT only a month earlier. A company of local militia and two cannons were dispatched to the lakefront. A schooner did appear. The cannons fired their shots and one did cross the bow of the schooner. When schooner was stopped, officials learned it was a peaceful trading vessel. No other threats appeared; however, the city of Rochester was prepared for a rebel attack.

A Slice Of Lake Ontario CW History

US Grant Remembered

Stephen Cushman, professor of English from the University of VA, has written an unusual study of the Battle of the Wilderness in which he “examines the history of verbal and visual images” of that battle. From Bloody Promenade: Reflections on a CW Battle (1999) comes Cushman’s memorable reflection on US Grant.

Whenever I Smoke A Cigar

Whenever I smoke a cigar I think of Grant in the Wilderness writing orders out in fatless prose without revision, then chewing on a burnt-out stub and weeping as numbers flooded in and names piled up on list the Northern papers printed along with the outcry of Butcher, Butcher, but by the time he hooded himself in a shawl on the porch to finish a book that provided the wife he couldn’t stand to part from with nearly half a million, the thirty pounds gone, and the vomited blood finished him, everybody up there loved Grant, and yet whenever I smoke a cigar I wonder what it takes to be happy in marriage and march through the woods making widows.

OHA History Mystery

The final performance of The Sinister Secret of the Sand in the Salt Shaker will be Saturday, Feb. 16th at 7 PM at the Onondaga Historical Association. This “hysterical, hilarious, and historical” mystery, written and directed by Scott Peal, will be performed by the OHA History Upstagers which includes the talents of OCCWRT member, Darothy DeAngelo. The drama centers around the contents of a mysterious chest discovered in a secret room of a 19th century James Street salt baron’s mansion. The cream of Syracuse high society, historical experts, the media, and a Hollywood superstar gather for the opening of the chest. The secrets and revelations from the chest take those present on a suspenseful journey into the past to solve a mystery of today. For more information call 315.428.1864 extension 313.
Please check if you prefer an emailed newsletter and can receive an Acrobat (pdf) file.

Membership dues of the OCCWRT are:

- $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: Richard Walker, Treasurer
307 Sherbrooke Rd
Manlius, NY 13104

Please find $__________ enclosed in form of
Circle One:

- Check
- M.O.
- Cash

Date ____________________

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.