



Lincoln's 200th
1809-2009
February 2009
Volume 15 Number 6

The Battlefield

Newsletter of the Onondaga County Civil War Round Table

February 17th Meeting

2007-08 OCCWRT Officers

Bill Goodwin, President/Program Co-Chair
315 437-3887

Diane Haller, VP/ Program Co-Chair
315 437-6446
greenfieldsdh@yahoo.com

Dave Osborn, Secretary
315 446-1715

A. Scott Cauger, Treasurer
315 627-0232
ascott.cauger@us.ngrid.com

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

Elaine Tucker, Trustee
315-683-5510
estucker@peoplepc.com

Darothy DeAngelo, Archivist
315 682-6312
darothy_d@hotmail.com (2 underlines)

Pat Stepanek, Newsletter Editor
315 696-5531
pas1865@verizon.net

Did you ever wonder what it was like to portray one of the most famous people of the United States Civil War? (Called by some the War of Northern Aggression) After President Lincoln there is nobody more identifiable than Confederate General Robert E. Lee. General Lee will visit the Onondaga County Civil War Round Table at our February meeting when RT member Dick Crozier tells about the varied and strange experiences he's had during the past 9 years portraying the General.

Thus far Dick has been to about a dozen states as General Lee: Arlington National Cemetery, Stratford Hall (Lee's birthplace), the Lee house in Richmond and the United States Capitol's Statuary Hall in Washington, DC among others. You can find out what it is like to be a Yankee, but yet portray CSA General Lee. Dick may even talk about that "Damn" Yankee, Union President Abraham Lincoln during the 200th Anniversary of his birth.

An observation that you may not have noticed is that Northern children have always had to recite the familiar Gettysburg Address. In the South, in years past, students learned General Order #9, Lee's final order to the Army of Northern Virginia. So after a question and answer period, Dick/General Lee will end the evening giving General Order #9 for us.

January Jeopardy's Exciting Finale

What a finish! Four teams worked their way through seven CW categories. Each team had enough points to qualify for the Final Jeopardy question. At the end of Final Jeopardy, two of the teams were tied. That's a first. The final two teams then wagered their points on a second Final Jeopardy question. And then there was one team left. Congratulations to the team of Bill Burak, Eleanor and James Tyler, Jerry Orton, and Jim Vandenburg. They are the 2009 CW Jeopardy champs.

9-11 PM Feb. 16 History Channel

The History Channel will premier a two-hour special, *Stealing Lincoln's Body*, on Wednesday, Feb. 16 at 9 PM. The show focuses on the 1876 scheme by Chicago counterfeiters to steal Lincoln's body for the return of an expert plate engraver who had been recently arrested. The Secret Service, an agency whose job was to curb counterfeiting, had infiltrated the gang and led their own plot to capture this gang of thieves.

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

On Becoming Lee

with Dick Crozier

Thursday, February 19, 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 February 2009: Lisa Bradley, Bob & Kathy Brown, Mike Carpenter, Scott Cauger, Marion Chester, Dick Crozier, Gorden Cruickshank, Dave Cuculich, Collyn Conrad and Mom, Darothey DeAngelo, Frank DeGrenier, Jim Dromgoole, Nancy Edwards, David Fedele family, Bill Goodwin, Beth Greenfield, Diane Haller, Lamont Hahn, Ruth Hotaling, Ted Jones, Martin Joyce, Cheryl LaManche, Kevin Milcarek, John Murray, Steve Nathan, 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.

BYO Cup to the February Meeting

The *Ultimate* Lincoln Conference

Oxford University will be the site of a global conference discussing Lincoln's international significance and appeal. Scholars from around the world will gather at St. Catherine's College in England on July 3-5, 2009 for the conference titled **Global Lincoln: An International Conference.**

Scholars will explore Lincoln's understanding of the globe and US role in foreign affairs. They will consider how Lincoln's image was used during the Cold War when American statesmen were formulating American foreign policy as well as the ways peoples and states conceived of Lincoln and used his image for their own purposes.

Part two will focus on Lincoln's international view as emancipator and liberator in the context of Russia's revolutionary changes during the birth of the Soviet era and during the emancipation period in Brazil and Cuba.

Another focus will be on the time period between 1865-1945. Perceptions of Lincoln will be examined in both Germany and Italy as both countries underwent parallel processes of unification and economic growth. Other topics will include Lincoln's influence in East Asia, India, South Africa and during the Spanish Civil War with the Lincoln Brigades.

Lincoln's legacy throughout Great Britain and Ireland will be the last focus with an emphasis on Lincoln's image in debates regarding Irish nationalism. The subject will broaden to include the Irish in America.

What a great conference to celebrate Lincoln's Bicentennial. Hopefully a book of the conference lectures will be published so we can all enjoy a global view of Lincoln.

OHA Civil War Lecture

Among the nearly one million documents in the OHA archives are two 1864 letters exchanged between two men who never met. One was Sidney Moseley, a sergeant in a Texas regiment, and the other was a Syracuse physician named Alfred Mercer, an avowed abolitionist and Unionist. Each writer tried to passionately convince the other to understand their very opposite positions in a war that had torn apart their nation. Dennis Connors, Curator of History at the Onondaga Historical Association, will present this lecture on February 22, 2009 at the OHA at 2 PM, \$3 Members, \$5.00 Non-Members. Dennis expertly presented this topic to our RT in February of 2005. Our newer members will enjoy learning about

the powerful emotions that President Lincoln had to face as this nation plunged into the Civil War. This lecture is being held in February to commemorate Black History Month and the 200th birthday of Abraham Lincoln.

OCCWRT and Lincoln Presentations

Our March, April and May meetings will focus on President Lincoln. In March our speaker will present a thorough study of Lincoln's legal career. April will be the 144th anniversary of Lincoln's assassination. Our speaker will examine the escape of John Wilkes Booth. In place of our May meeting, the RT will be able to attend at least 5 days of programs in Homer, NY that have been endorsed by the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration Commission in Washington, DC and will feature the co-chairman of the commission, Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer. More details on the Homer event when the schedule is finalized by the Homer committee. This event in Homer (May 13th - May 17th) will easily replace our usual third Thursday of the month meeting. Mark your calendars!

Sir Winston's Intellectual Parlor Game

This genre of fiction has many names: counterfactual history, alternate history, speculative history, or intellectual parlor game. Well-known historians have dabbled in it; most would not admit to it. Newt Gingrich's Gettysburg and any of Harry Turtledove's books are examples of it. The premise of an alternate history is to speculate about what might the world have been like if an historical event had happened differently. What if Lee had won at Gettysburg? Winston Churchill thought about that question and what follows is a summary of his thought-provoking conjectures from his alternate history essay.

Lee's victory at Gettysburg allowed him to take Washington the next week. Knowing the Union had greater resources and would eventually vanquish the South, Lee shook the world with his declaration that the Confederacy's policy towards the negroes would be in harmony with the moral conceptions of Western Europe. This pronouncement more than any military event assured the South's victory for the moral stumbling block of slavery was removed.

Nothing now could prevent an alliance with Britain. Within a month a formal treaty of alliance between the British Empire and the Confederacy was signed. The Northern blockade of the South could not be maintained because of the immense naval power of Britain. Cotton poured out of Southern ports. The Confederacy's finances were restored, and their arsenals replenished. Lincoln no longer rejected the Southern appeal for independence.

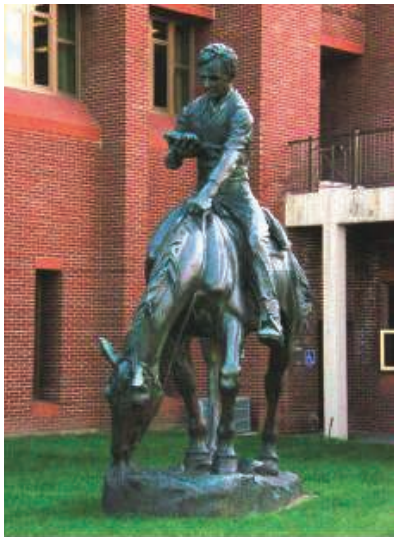
Lincoln declared in his famous speech in New York, "If our brothers in the South are willing faithfully to cleanse this continent of slavery, and if they will dwell beside us in neighborly goodwill as an independent but friendly nation, it would not be right to prolong the slaughter on the question of sovereignty alone."

As so the war ended. The United States (the north) dreamed of revenge as the Confederacy arrogantly conquered Mexico in 1884 with a 700,000 man army composed of reconciled negroes. A frantic arms race developed. With English and Canadian forces to the north the Confederate army grew to two million. An uneasy peace continued.

When war broke out in 1905 between Russia and Japan, President T. Roosevelt was aware of the likelihood of Britain, the South's ally, being drawn into the conflict on the side of Japan. Could this mean the United States might have to defend itself again. Wisely, Prime Minister Balfour, President Theodore Roosevelt of the United States, and President Woodrow Wilson of the Confederacy agreed to a Covenant of the English-Speaking Association, creating a community of all the English-speaking peoples while leaving untouched the sovereignty of each. They had created unbreakable ties for the maintenance of peace between themselves.

The benefits of this unity were dramatically shown by the Crisis of 1914 which followed the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand at Sarajevo. On August 1st, as the armies were nearing one another, the ESA (English-Speaking Association) declared it would consider any country whose army crossed a frontier to be automatically at war with the ESA. Russia, France, and Austria drew away as did Germany's Kaiser. A European war was avoided. Kaiser Wilhelm became one of the most respected elder statesmen in Europe. Perhaps he reflected how Germany had avoided defeat, and he had avoided becoming the outcast of a ruined nation.

A Lincoln Equestrian in Syracuse



On the Circuit

At our January meeting, members Jerry and Lorraine Orton brought to our attention this remarkable Lincoln equestrian statue. Few of us knew that it was part of the Syracuse University campus. When the weather calms down, this is a site many of us might want to visit and photograph. Thanks go to the Ortons for alerting us to this rare sight in our own backyard.

Within the National Parks system, the only other sculpture of

Lincoln on horseback is at Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn, near the entrance to Prospect Park. A bearded, bareheaded Lincoln holding his top hat at his side as if reviewing the troops shares the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch with General Grant, also on horseback. Recently at the newly renovated Lincoln Cottage in Washington, a sculpture of Lincoln standing by his horse at the cottage entrance was dedicated. Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer reasoned that military heroes were most likely remembered with an equestrian statue. Because Lincoln was thought of as the “quintessential civilian” he and his orations have been memorialized without the need of a horse.

A much different view of an equestrian Lincoln was cast by American sculptor Anna Hyatt Huntington (1876-1973). She chose to remember Lincoln as a young lawyer taking a pause while riding the circuit. He is engrossed in his reading, probably a law book, while his horse enjoys a tasty snack. The 2-ton bronze was donated by the artist and installed between Bray and Walters Halls on the ESF campus on Nov. 15, 1974. Until that time the sculpture had been on the artist’s estate in Redding, CT.

Several copies of this equestrian were cast in various sizes. A smaller version was presented to the Austrian people after the Austrian minister of education admired it at the 1964 World’s Fair in Queens, NY. Other copies stand at the Bethel, CT public library, the library at Adrian College in Michigan, in Lincoln City, Oregon, New Salem, IL, and at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in Palisades, NY.

Anna Huntington was given a Doctor of Arts degree by SU in 1932. She and her philanthropist husband, Archer Huntington, donated 15,000 acres in the Adirondacks near Newcomb, NY to SU that are known today as ESF’s Huntington Wildlife Forest. The 10,000 acres known as Brookgreen Gardens near Charleston, SC where she once had her studio are today open to the public. The gardens house not only examples of her animal sculptures but the works of many of the most famous artists of her time.

Her work is documented in such books as *American Sculpture in the Metropolitan Museum of Art* (1965), *Masters of American Sculpture*, by Donald Reynolds, *Rediscoveries in American Sculpture* by Conner & Rosenkranz (1989) and *Brookgreen Gardens Sculpture* by Beatrice Proske (1968).

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