



January 2006
Volume 12 Number 5

The Battlefield

Newsletter of the Onondaga County Civil War Round Table

2005-06 OCCWRT Officers

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Meeting Site

January 19, 2006

7 PM

Eastwood Baptist Church
3212 James Street
Eastwood, NY

County Architecture of the Civil War Period

Presented by
Samuel Gruber, Ph.D
PACNY

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.

Meeting Cancellation Reminder

Though we didn't cancel last month's meeting, many members chose to stay home, and some members traveled a few miles before they returned home. This is a reminder of our cancellation process. An email announcing the cancellation will be sent to those who receive the newsletter by email. If you receive your newsletter through the mail, we ask that you call Pat Stepanek (696-5531) or Darothy DeAngelo (682-6312) after 3:30 PM on the day of the meeting to learn if it has been cancelled. Common sense should prevail.

January Meeting

Have you ever wondered what Central New York looked like in the mid 19th century? What examples of Civil War era architecture still remain? Join us for an expert's view of 19th-century Onondaga County. Dr. Sam Gruber, teacher, scholar, and author, representing the Preservation Association of Central New York (PACNY) will discuss *County Architecture of the Civil War Period* at the January 19th meeting. PACNY's advocacy since its founding in 1974 has been to actively pursue the conservation and protection of significant historic and cultural resources within our community. The association's website, pacny@usadatanet.net, chronicles the history of this fine organization.

Dr. Gruber who earned his doctorate in architectural history from Columbia University is the director of the Jewish Heritage Research Center here in Syracuse and is the Rothman Family Visiting Lecturer in Judaic Studies at Syracuse University. He serves as the Jewish Heritage Program consultant to the World Monuments Fund and president of the International Survey of Jewish Monuments. In 2002 as research director of the US Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, Dr. Gruber submitted to the Committee on Appropriations of the 107th US Congress a 75 page *Preliminary Survey of Sites Associated with the Lives and Deeds of Foreign-born Heroes of the American Revolution*. This important document may be viewed and read at this site: <http://www.heritageabroad.gov/reports/doc/heroes.pdf>. Dr. Gruber is the author of *American Synagogues: A Century of Architecture and Jewish Community*, an exploration of outstanding synagogue architecture.

Member Makes the Front Page

General Robert E. Lee, aka Dick Crozier, was photographed standing proudly during the November Remembrance Days at Gettysburg. That photo appears in the recent issue of *The Civil War News* at the bottom right of the front page. Looking good, General Lee.

Thank You, HOCPA

The Historic Oakwood Cemetery Preservation Association has contributed \$500 to our General Sumner Preservation Fund. The fund has been created to pay for the necessary repairs to the General's tomb at Oakwood Cemetery. We appreciate this generous donation.

President's Message

Greetings for the New Year of 2006! I would like to thank the brave souls who attended our holiday fete in rapidly changing weather. Because we had such a small group in December, we decided to postpone the Sumner raffle drawing until our June meeting.

Every year Sue Greenhagen brings in free copies of *The Civil War News*. It has such a great rebate offer. So I took my copy home and to my surprise there was a great article on a Civil War project in Brooklyn on identifying Civil War soldiers in Greenwood Cemetery. This monthly newspaper has done a great job linking Civil War events past and present.

Sue also did a great job doing an impromptu presentation of a guided tour of South Mountain before the battle of Antietam. Civil War enthusiasts are becoming famous for defying the elements in order to reach some really obscure places.

The Madison County Bicentennial kickoff featured many events in and around Oneida on New Year's Eve day. Sue Greenhagen and Darothy DeAngelo were snow covered referees in the town ball game. I checked out the donated original edition of the *New York Times* dated Jan. 1, 1863 that covered the Emancipation Proclamation. Big events are planned through out the year in Madison County including the establishment of a heritage freedom trail.

Sic simper,
Beth Greenfield

Scheduled Speakers

From Program Chair Darothy DeAngelo

February 16: Butterfield Round Table member Cheryl Pula will present *The Kennedy/Lincoln Connections*.

March 16: Norman Dann, retired professor from Morrisville State College, will preview his forthcoming book, *Practical Dreamer: Gerrit Smith*.

April 20: Binghamton Round Table member Eileen Patch will discuss her research of a family member who served in the Civil War. That research resulted in her book, *Letters from George*.

May 18: Charles Snyder presents *The Fiasco at the Crater*.

June 15: Annual Meeting, Elections, Show and Tell, and the drawing for the General Sumner portrait.

Meetings resume in September.

Our Wisconsin Member

Most likely we will never meet Richard Millen. Though he has been receiving our newsletter since September and knows when and where we meet, we understand why he never attends a meeting. Mr. Millen lives in Madison, Wisconsin. We welcome him to the Round Table and are interested in knowing more about him. Please drop us a line or an email and introduce yourself. And...if you're ever this way, come and visit.

New Penny Salutes Lincoln's 200th Birthday

Congress has approved a redesign of the penny to celebrate Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday in February 2009. The new penny will feature four new designs on the back of the current coin, each representing a different phase of the 16th president's life. The designs will depict Lincoln's birth and childhood in Kentucky, his youth in Indiana, his professional life in Illinois and his presidency in Washington. The present image of Lincoln will remain on the front of the coin.

The treasury secretary will choose the four designs after consulting with the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, The Commission of Fine Arts and the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee. After 2009, the reverse of the penny will be permanently changed to one representing Lincoln's role in preserving the nation during the Civil War.

The "Lincoln cent" first appeared during the centennial observation of Lincoln's birth in 1909 and represented a major departure from previous American coinage. For the first time, a US coin depicted a real historical figure rather than the allegorical, "Liberty" figures or the more generic "Indian head" that immediately preceded Lincoln on the penny. Victor David Brenner's profile of Lincoln has appeared continuously on the obverse or "head" side of the penny since its introduction in 1909.

Future History-Based Films

Harrison Ford of *Raiders of the Lost Ark* fame will play a war hero hunting for Lincoln's assassin in a new American Civil War film. Ford will take the role of Colonel Everton Conger who is on the trail of John Wilkes Booth in the movie, **Manhunt**, based on a James Swanson book of the same name. The film will depict the days following Lincoln's assassination in 1865 during which Conger and his New York Cavalry troops hunted for Booth for 12 days before finding him. No release date has been mentioned.

Steven Spielberg and Dream Works Pictures have purchased the rights to Pulitzer Prize winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin's recently published **Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln**. (I predict Goodwin will win the 2006 Lincoln Prize to be announced in April.) Goodwin traces the lives of Lincoln and his key cabinet members, Seward, Bates, Stanton, and Chase, from their early political careers to their daily dealings with each other in wartime Washington. Liam Neeson - *Schindler's List* - is tapped to play Lincoln who would eventually emerge "the undisputed captain of this most unusual cabinet" much to the surprise of the cabinet. According to Spielberg, **Team of Rivals** is in active development. With no hint of a release date, this will give all of you time to read this engaging narrative history of Lincoln. As a young man Lincoln feared he would die "having done nothing to make any human being remember that he had lived." No need to worry, Abe.

FYI

Here's an interesting bit of trivia. Cherie Booth Blair, wife of England's Prime Minister Tony Blair, is the great, great, great, grand niece of John Wilkes Booth. I wonder if she has slept in the Lincoln bedroom in the White House?

Christmas At Arlington

From: *The Farm Bureau News* December 12, 2005



After 13 years and roughly 52,000 wreaths, Maine Farm Bureau member Merrill Worcester's annual trek to Arlington National Cemetery is now a much-anticipated tradition for Worcester, Maine and Washington, D.C.-area volunteers, cemetery officials and visitors.

Worcester launched the tradition in December 1992 when his Harrington, Maine-based *Worcester Wreath Co.* had a surplus. Not wanting the wreaths to go to waste, he considered donating them to Arlington. The nation's military shrine made a distinct impression on Worcester during his visit to Washington when he was 12 years old.

Worcester coordinated the first delivery of about 4,500 wreaths to the cemetery. That year it took him and five other volunteers more than half a day to put out all the wreaths. Today with so many volunteers, it takes about an hour to place the wreaths.

The wreaths are prepared in Maine by members of the civil air patrol, the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Local students, residents and Worcester Wreath Co. employees also pitch in.

Once the wreaths arrive at Arlington, Washington-area veterans, students, staff from Maine's congressional delegation and cemetery employees, place the wreaths throughout the cemetery and participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns (photo on back page).

Over the years, Worcester's wreaths have adorned the headstones of the sailors who lost their lives in the explosion that sunk the USS Maine in 1889, the final resting place of Maine native and former Secretary of State Edmund Muskie, and President John F. Kennedy's eternal flame. The wreaths have also honored more current casualties, including victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 attack on the Pentagon. Cemetery officials ensure that wreaths are placed in sections that receive few visitors, and the sections are rotated each year. The wreaths are traditionally placed in the older sections of the cemetery where the deceased are separated by many generations from their living relatives.

The Worcester Wreath Co. is located on North St., Harrington, ME 04643 if you wish to thank them for their kindness.

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.



**The Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery
guarded 24-hours a day by specially trained members
of the 3rd United States Infantry (Old Guard).**

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