June 19th Meeting

Our last meeting of the 2007-08 season is our Annual Business Meeting, Show and Tell, and a Fund Raising Silent Auction. This will be a busy evening. First on the agenda is a vote on next season’s officers. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. The slate offered by the nominating committee is as follows:

- **President**  Bill Goodwin
- **Vice-President**  Diane Haller
- **Secretary**  Dave Osborne
- **Treasurer**  Rich Walker
- **Trustee**  Elaine Tucker
- **Trustee**  Sue Greenhagen

Show and Tell will be your time to present any topic that interests you. Do you have a Civil War artifact to present? Have you taken an interesting Civil War tour lately? Read a good Civil War book? Wish to share your insights on a Civil War personality, an incident, your genealogical research? Been to the new Visitors Center at Gettysburg? Most of us haven’t been there yet. Planning a Civil War related activity for the summer? Take a few minutes at the June meeting to let us know.

Finally, the silent auction needs your items to make it a fund raising success. Please consider donating one or two items that might catch the eye of a fellow member. All funds will be used for the General Sumner Fund. Please plan to join us at this last meeting of the season. We need your support.

**Sumner Grave Restoration to Begin**

Jim Dromgoole reports that Viau Construction Company of Syracuse will begin the structural repair of General Edwin Vose Sumner and Mrs. Sumner’s pillared monument at historic Oakwood Cemetery in early July. The structural weaknesses in the foundation threaten the entire monument. The repair will insure the integrity of this significant monument for another 150 years.

After the battles of Antietam and Fredericksburg, General Sumner (1797-1863) traveled to Syracuse to visit his daughter Sarah Sumner Teall before he made his way west to his requested reassignment. The Syracuse winter afflicted him with either the flu or pneumonia. He died in March 1863 and was buried in the Teall plot. He had served in the US Army for 44 years.

Viau Construction estimates the repairs to be $8600, a bit more than we have in the fund. All proceeds from the June Silent Auction will go into the Sumner Fund. Donations will also be accepted or may be sent to Dave Osborn, 115 Thistlewood Lane, Fayetteville, NY 13066. The rededication of the monument is planned for Veterans Day in November.
General George S. Patton had many reasons to be a great military leader. Patton came from a long line of military heroes. His father had lived through the Civil War and had vivid memories of the Confederacy. In the Patton home, there were many mementos of the Civil War: from steel engravings of General Lee and Stonewall Jackson to the shell fragment taken from the lifeless body of another Patton hero who died at Gettysburg.

During George’s childhood, one of the best friends of the Patton family was none other than Colonel John S. Mosby, the famed “Grey Ghost” of JEB Stuart’s legendary cavalry. Mosby had migrated to California to work for the Southern Pacific Railroad. Patton grew up hearing tales of daring raids and stunning cavalry attacks from the Grey Ghost himself. During visits to the Patton Ranch in Southern California, Colonel Mosby would reenact the Civil War with George. Playing himself, Mosby let George play the part of General Lee as they would recount the battles of the war, astride their horses.

These firsthand stories and horseback re-enactments, directed by one of the greatest guerilla fighters of all time, no doubt had a huge influence on Patton. Both his sense of bravery and duty, and his guerilla-like tactics were no doubt heavily influenced by his early exploits with John S. Mosby.

It Had His Name On It

Among the dead we left in the Cheat Mountain country in western Virginia, September 11-17, 1861, was a chap belonging to my company named Abbott; it is not odd that I recollect it, for there was something unusual in the manner of Abbott’s taking off. He was lying flat upon his stomach and was killed by being struck in the side by a nearly spent cannon shot that came rolling in among us. The shot remained in him until removed. It was a solid round shot, evidently cast in some private foundry, whose proprietor, setting the laws of thrift above those of ballistics, had put his “imprint” upon it: it bore, in slightly sunken letters, the name “Abbott.”

----Ambrose Bierce

So That’s Why Lee Lost At Gettysburg

From the New Orleans Times-Democrat 1863

General Lee was very fond of old Virginia Flapjacks. Thin as a wafer and big nearly as a cart wheel; and when made of new flour and served hot with fresh butter and maple molasses and folded and folded, layers thick, they are a feast for the gods. But General Lee, the best and tenderest of men, as well as the greatest, hadn’t it in his heart to fare well - much as his ample means would never have allowed, when his men were suffering for food; and if one wanted a poor dinner he had only to drop in on General Lee at that hour. He lived but little better than his men.

This greatly disturbed his cook; and when the army advanced into Pennslyvania, flowing with milk and honey and other good things edible, he said: “Wee, I’ se gwine to git something good for Marse Robert for once, if he never eats none no mo’.” So, skirmishing around, he got up the necessary ingredients for the General’s favorite cake. The cook, in his pride as chef and zealous love for his master, outdid himself on that 30th of June. The cakes were too tempting; the General ate too plentifully, was sick accordingly, and Gettysburg was lost.
Please check if you prefer an emailed newsletter and can receive an Acrobat (pdf) file.

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

Please find $__________enclosed in form of
Circle One:

Check    M.O.    Cash

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.