



June 2008
Volume 14 Number 10

The Battlefield

Newsletter of the Onondaga County Civil War Round Table

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.



Photo by Sue Greenhagen

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.

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.

2007-08 OCCWRT Officers

Bill Goodwin, President
315 437-3887

Dave Osborn, Secretary
315 446-1715

Richard Walker, Treasurer
315 682 4617
rwalker42@aol.com

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

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

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

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

Meeting Site

Town of DeWitt Community Room

148 Sanders Creek Parkway
East Syracuse, New York

Annual Business Meeting
Show and Tell
Silent Auction

Thursday, June 19, 2008
7:00 PM

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.

Peterboro Civil War Weekend

The village of Peterboro, NY will celebrate its 14th annual Civil War Weekend on June 14-15. The village green comes alive with an encampment of both Union and Confederate soldiers, Civil War music, books, postal cachets, sutler tents, and an OCCWRT information table. Hope you can make it.

A Special Thanks

What would we do without Dave Osborn? This season he has been both secretary and treasurer of the OCCWRT while treasurer Rich Walker has traveled extensively. Dave makes sure the coffee is made and snacks are available. He also gets the key to the Community Room and at the end of the meeting makes sure the room is in order before he locks up. Dave, we appreciate your efforts and the OCCWRT thanks you.

Homer Celebrates Lincoln Connections

Not many villages the size of Homer, NY can say that two of its own young men went on to work in the Lincoln White House. Recently both William Stoddard and Francis Bicknell Carpenter were celebrated during the Kenneth M. Eaton Living History Day at Homer High School. Ken Eaton was the former owner and curator of the Homeville Museum who died in 2006. Homer students, the public and representatives from 40 regional museums and historical societies were introduced to Stoddard and Carpenter portrayed by Homer Town Historian Martin Sweeney and Marathon art teacher David Quinlan.

William Stoddard was Lincoln's third secretary. One of his tasks was to make copies of the Emancipation Proclamation. He introduced Lincoln to his hometown friend artist Francis Carpenter who lived in the White House for 6 months while painting *First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation* which now hangs in the Senate wing of the U.S. Capitol over the west staircase. The audience learned that the painting once hung on the third floor of the Barber Block Opera House building still standing at South Main and Wall Streets.

"What a partner," Sweeney said about Carpenter. "These two guys from Homer worked well together." Next May Homer will again celebrate the lives of Stoddard, Carpenter and Lincoln as part of the national Lincoln Bicentennial.

John Mosby's Influence Transcends Civil War

What follows is an interesting possibility from <http://www.sonofthesouth.net>

Colonel John Singleton Mosby (1833-1916) was famous as one of the original innovators in guerilla warfare. Few people realize that his influence extends far beyond his impact on the Civil War. It is generally not known that his fighting style had a profound impact on the outcome of World War II.

General George S. Patton (1885-1945) was one of the pivotal figures of WW II. His bold, aggressive, and no-holds-barred combat style reflected his unique understanding that tanks were the cavalry of modern warfare. His aggressive and successful command proved to be a differentiating element in the Allied victory in Europe. In a study of General Patton, one must wonder where he got his unique understanding of mobile warfare, and how he was able to go toe-to-toe with Rommel, and come out on top. What was Patton's edge, and what gave him the advantage?

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 fabled "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 Pennsylvania, 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.

Historic Oakwood Cemetery Preservation Association Tour Schedule - 2008

Guided Walking Tours - Sundays at 2:00 PM Starting at the Chapel (except for July 27)

- June 22** *Scamps, Scoundrels and Scalawags* Historian Sue Greenhagen will introduce us to some rapsCALLIONS who now reside in Oakwood.
- July 27** *Entrepreneurs, Wholesalers and Retailers and Boondogglers* John Marsellus, former President of the Marsellus Casket Company, will discuss numerous pre-technological minds of long ago. This tour will begin at the Comstock Avenue Entrance.
- Aug. 12** *Inventors, Designers and Daydreamers* The sister act of Sue Greenhagen and Darothy DeAngelo will amaze you with tales of the folks who MADE Syracuse.
- Sept. 28** *A Ramble - the Curious, Mysterious and Just Plain Oddball* Tour Guides will be Jamie Steele and Karl Orlick. (If they don't know, nobody knows.)

For more information, call 682-6312

**Have a wonderful summer. See you in September
for the beginning of our 2008-2009 season**

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 \$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 _____

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