



May 2008
Volume 14 Number 9

The Battlefield

Newsletter of the Onondaga County Civil War Round Table

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Meeting Site

Town of DeWitt Community Room

148 Sanders Creek Parkway
East Syracuse, New York

Wayne Motts

Presents

*Gettysburg's Schmucker Hall
In
War and Peace*

Thursday, May 8, 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.

May Meeting

Known today as the "Old Dorm," Schmucker Hall was built in 1832 on the grounds of the Luthern Seminary in Gettysburg. On July 1, 1863, the building was caught in the terrible fighting between elements of the First Corps of the Union Army and Confederate forces under General A. P. Hill. The building was used as an observation post by Union General John Buford, and later served as the largest field hospital in Gettysburg, treating 600 wounded men of both sides from July to September 1863. Schmucker Hall was placed on the National Register of historic places in 1974, and is now the home of the Adams County Historical Society. Wayne Motts will present the history of *Gettysburg's Schmucker Hall in Peace and War*.



Courtesy Adams County Historical Society Whether he is leading a battlefield tour or addressing historical groups including the Smithsonian Institution, his passion for his subject is his trademark. He is considered the authority on Confederate General Lewis Addison Armistead of Pickett's Charge and has published the only biography of the general entitled *Trust in God and Fear Nothing: Lewis Armistead, CSA*. Wayne's 1990 monograph on General George Sears Greene in Issue 3 of the *Gettysburg Magazine* was reviewed by Ed Bearss, National Park Service historian emeritus, who applauded Wayne "for the research and writing skills that bring attention to the intelligence, acumen and leadership" of General Greene. Bearss credits Wayne's article, *To Gain a Second Star: The Forgotten George S. Greene*, for enhancing "the awe that stirs the soul when stopping at the Culp's Hill tower and seeing the magnificent heroic bronze statue of General Greene, pointing out to his troops onrushing Confederates." Many of us know the awe of Green's portrait statue for that area is our round table's Adopt-A-Position site.

Wayne has also served as research historian for famed Civil War artist Dale Gallon as well as the collections manager at the Adams County Historical Society. In 2005 he was named Executive Director of the Society which houses a massive collection of manuscripts, county records, photographic images, books, and three-dimensional objects related to the history of Adams County and the Gettysburg Battle.

You will not forget your evening with Wayne - a brilliant military historian, author, licensed Gettysburg Battle field Guide and fiery speaker doing what he loves to do.

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.

Smithfield Community Association's

10th Annual

CIVIL WAR WEEKEND!

PETERBORO NY

Saturday

June 14

10:00-5:00

Sunday

June 15

10:00-4:00



SKIRMISH

2:00

Saturday

and

Sunday

General Admission to all daytime events: Adults \$7.00, 6 to 12 \$3.00, 5 and under FREE

Proceeds from this event help to preserve and restore the Gerrit Smith Estate, a National Historic Landmark, and Evans' Hall, the future home of the National Abolition Hall of Fame and museum.

Peterboro Civil War Weekend

An early reminder of this event to give you time to plan for it. The weekend of June 14-15 is just a few days after you will receive the June newsletter- too short a notice for this fine event. This is the weekend to hear Civil War music, browse through the sutler's tents, watch a skirmish and walk through Union and Confederate campgrounds. The OCCWRT will have a booth as will the Capital District Civil War Round Table. Take time to visit the Gerrit Smith Museum and the National Abolition Hall of Fame in the Smithfield Community Center. The County Store usually has a fine selection of Civil War books. It's likely you'll run into General Lee and/or General Grant strolling the grounds buying an ice cream cone or hotdog. Bring the kids or grandchildren and enjoy an historic 19th century afternoon.

An Attempt at Less Waste

In an attempt to use less styrofoam cups at our meetings, we ask that you bring a cup for your coffee. If you forget, we will continue to have a supply of paper cups. The inspiration for this change comes from the Binghamton Civil War Round Table. Let's give it a try.

May Puzzler

The National Rifle Association was founded in 1871 by a group of Union veterans. The first NRA president was Ambrose Burnside. What Union general became the eighth president?

Memories of the Civil War

Ill Omen: from A. L. Long's memoirs - son-in-law of Union General Edwin "Bull" Sumner and military secretary to General Lee.

At Chancellorsville on the morning of May 2, 1863, Jackson was the first to rise from the bivouac...and observing a staff officer without cover, he spread over him his own overcoat. The morning being chilly, he drew near a small fire that had been kindled by a courier, and the writer, who soon after sought the same place, found him seated on a cracker-box. He complained of the cold, and as the cooks were preparing breakfast, I managed to procure him a cup of hot coffee, which by good fortune our cook was able to provide.

While we were still talking, the general's sword which was leaning against a tree, without apparent cause, fell with a clank to the ground. I picked it up and handed it to him. He thanked me and buckled it on. It was now about dawn; the troops were on the march and our bivouac was all astir. After a few words with General Lee he mounted his horse and rode off. This was the last meeting of Lee and Jackson.

I have spoken of the falling of Jackson's sword, because it strongly impressed me at the time as an omen of evil - an indefinable superstition such as sometimes affects persons on the falling of a picture or mirror. This feeling haunted me the whole day, and when the tidings of Jackson's wound reached my ears it was without surprise that I heard this unfortunate confirmation of the superstitious fears with which I had been so oppressed.

Jackson died of his "friendly-fire" wounds eight days later.

Wormy Hardtack from H. Clay Trumbull's memoirs. Trumbull was Chaplain of the 10th Conn. Vols., later Chaplain of the Army of the James.

While before Petersburg, doing siege work in the summer of 1864, our men had wormy "hardtack," or ship's biscuit, served out to them for a time. It was a severe trial, and it taxed the temper of the men. Breaking open the biscuit, and finding live worms in them, they would throw the pieces in the trenches where they were doing duty day by day, although the orders were to keep the trenches clean for sanitary reasons.

A brigade officer of the day, seeing some of these scraps along our front, called out sharply to our men: "Throw that hardtack out of the trenches." Then, as the men promptly gathered it up as directed, he added: "Don't you know that you've no business to throw hardtack in the trenches? Haven't you been told that often enough?" Out from one injured soldier's heart there came the reasonable explanation: "We've thrown it out two or three times, sir, but it crawls back."

Dues Update 2007-2008

As our meeting season comes to an end with our June Annual Meeting, here is a tally of our dues paying members:

Beckwith, Bradley, Brown(2), Carpenter, Cauger, Chester(2), Conrad, Cruickshank, Cuculich, DeAngelo, DeGrenier(2), Dromgoole, Edwards, Goodwin, Greenfield, Greenhagen, Hahn, Haller, Hotaling, Jones, Joyce, Murray, Nathan, Nilsson(2), Raus, Roy, Russell, Scott, Snell, Snyder, Stepanek, Sweet, Sr., Tyler, E. Tucker, Walker, Wyker. **Thank You**

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
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