May Meeting

Known today as the “Old Dorm,” Schmucker Hall was built in 1832 on the grounds of the Lutheran 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*.

Wayne Motts graduated from Ohio State with a B.A. in history in 1989. After moving to Gettysburg in 1990, he earned a Masters in American History from Shippensburg University in 1994. He was one of the youngest persons ever to complete the licensing process to be a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park and has guided parties around the famous battlefield for over 20 years. When growing up in Groveport Ohio, Wayne’s father Warren, founder of Motts Military Museum in Groveport, would bring his family to Gettysburg 5-6 times a year. With his father’s guidance, Wayne became a young Gettysburg historian, lecturing a class at Ohio State on the Battle of Gettysburg when he was but a young lad of 14.

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.*
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


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:


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 _____________________

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.