



May 2009
Volume 15 Number 9

The Battlefield

Newsletter of the Onondaga County Civil War Round Table

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**Lincoln
Bicentennial Celebration
Homer, New York**



Lincoln in Paint and Print
May 13-17, 2009
Homer, NY

www.lincolninpaintandprint.org

Our 15th Year!

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 Activities

Start your engines! The busy month of Civil War-related activities begins on Wednesday, May 13th in Homer, NY with the Kick-off Event of **Lincoln in Paint and Print** at 7:30 PM at the Center for the Arts, 72 S. Main St. The evening will feature Kim Hubbard on Abolitionism along with musical entertainment. From May 13th through Sunday, May 17th, Homer, NY will celebrate its ties to Abraham Lincoln. Friday, May 15th from 7-9 PM at the Homer Intermediate School, 58 Clinton St Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer will speak on Homeric William Stoddard, 3rd secretary to Lincoln. On Saturday, May 16th from 2-4 PM at the Intermediate School, Holzer will recognize Homeric Francis Carpenter, an artist who painted Lincoln's reading the Emancipation Proclamation to his cabinet for the first time. That painting now hangs in the Capitol rotunda. A complete listing of the events was featured in our April newsletter and can be found at www.lincolninpaintandprint.org. Hope to see many of you there. These activities replace our May meeting.

On May 24th the first free Sunday tour of historic **Oakwood Cemetery** begins with George Curry, ESF Professor of Landscape Architecture. His tour will focus on the artistic and natural aspect of the old cemetery.

The month ends with an event the OCCWRT has anticipated during the four years of fund raising to restore General Edwin V. Sumner's gravesite in Oakwood Cemetery. The **Rededication of Sumner's Gravesite** will occur on Sunday, May 31, 2009 at 2 PM. Co-chairs of the event, Darothy DeAngelo and Sue Greenhagen, have planned a memorable day for OCCWRT members and their guests. Brigadier General (ret) Robert Purple of the NY Air National Guard will deliver the dedicatory remarks. Musician Ryan Brake will play Taps, and Avery Head will be heard on the bagpipies. Art Benschadel who reenacts a Civil War Chaplain will deliver the benediction. Members of the 149th and 122nd NYSV and 12th NY will be present as the Color Guard. OCCWRT's own Collyn Conrad will lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Please join us for this important event. Use the Comstock Avenue entrance to Oakwood Cemetery and follow the signs to the Chapel. Parking is nearby.

17th Annual Peterboro Civi War Weekend

Peterboro, NY, the home of the National Abolition Hall of Fame, will again host its annual Civil War Weekend on Saturday, June 13th and Sunday, June 14th. ACW skirmish is scheduled for 2 PM on both days. The OCCWRT will have an information booth on the green. Admission \$7 Children 6-12, \$3.00

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.

Thank You for Your Dues

2008-09 dues paid as of May 15, 2009: Patricia Arvantides, Lisa Bradley, Bob & Kathy Brown, Mike Carpenter, Scott Cauger, Marion Chester, Dick Crozier, Gordon Cruickshank, Dave Cuculich, Collyn Conrad and Mom, Darothy DeAngelo, Frank DeGrenier, Jim Dromgoole, Nancy Edwards, David Fedele family, Bill Goodwin, Beth Greenfield, Sue Greenhagen, Diane Haller, Lamont Hahn, Ruth Hotaling, Ted Jones, Martin Joyce, Jim Kellogg, Cheryl LaManche, Kevin Milcarek, John Murray, Steve Nathan, Brian Nilsson, William O'Leary, Jane Maher Proper, M. Kent Russell, Kathy Ryan, Richard Scott, Charles Snyder, Pat Stepanek, Rich & Natalie Trump, Courtney Tucker, Elaine Tucker, Eleanor & James Tyler, Valerie Williams, Marcus & Kristy Lee Witt, Fred Wyker. 48 members

2009-2010 Proposed Slate of Officers

In accordance with the by-laws of the OCCWRT, the nominating committee chaired by Ruth Hotaling offers the following slate of officers for the 2009-2010 season. The membership will vote for the officers at our Annual Business Meeting in June. At that time nominations will be taken from the floor. The slate is as follows:

President	Bill Goodwin
Vice-President	Diane Haller
Secretary	Dave Osborn
Treasurer	Scott Cauger
Trustee	Mike Carpenter
Trustee	Kathy Ryan

How Large is the Late Fee?

from the *Washington Post*

Nearly 145 years after it was stolen by a Union soldier during a Civil War raid, a missing library book has been returned to the Washington and Lee University library by an Illinois man who inherited it from the soldier's descendants. The book was passed down through the soldier's family then on to a family friend who tracked down the original library and returned it. The library was astounded to get it back.

The school was looted and the neighboring Virginia Military Institute was burned down by General David Hunter and his troops on June 11 1864. A note written in the book and signed by the soldier, C.S. Gates, reads: "This book was taken from the Military Institute at Lexington Virginia in June 1864 when General Hunter was on his Lynchburg raid. The Institution was burned by the order of Gen. Hunter. The remains of Gen. Stonewall Jackson rest in the cemetery at this place."

The Union soldier mistakenly thought he was taking the book from VMI. But the leather-bound first volume of W.F.P. Napier's four-volume *History of the War in the Peninsula and in the South of France from the Year 1807 to the Year 1814* has "Washington College" written on the frontispiece, and appears to be an exact match with Volume 2, which the school's Leyburn Library still owns. Immediately after the war, nearly 1,000 books were brought back to Washington and Lee. The school was known as Washington College until 1871 when Robert E. Lee died there while serving as president of the college.

FYI

By 1890 the term "hobo" had become part of the American lexicon. At the end of the Civil War soldiers looking to return home took to hopping freight trains. Others looking for work on the American frontier followed railroads west. The derivation of the term may in fact come from ho-pping bo-xcars.

He Did the Right Thing

In late April, the Virginia Military Institute unveiled a plaque commemorating artillery Captain Henry duPont of the Union army who helped rebuild the college after destroying it during the Civil War. "He shelled, burned, and completely destroyed the barracks at the time when the barracks were the institute," said VMI historian Colonel Keith Gibson. It was Captain du Pont's efforts 50-years later that were commemorated.

Former Delaware Governor Pete du Pont was on hand to speak about his great-grandfather Henry and said, "He said to himself, I fired the guns that destroyed it when I was in the war and now I ought to get some money from the federal government to reestablish it." That money was \$100,000, which is more like a million dollars today.

Governor du Pont toured Jackson Memorial Hall which was built with that money in 1916. Colonel Gibson says there were no hard feelings after the war, and today VMI has the upmost respect for Henry du Pont who was the type of person who chose to do the right thing. Doing the right thing is one of the values VMI is trying to pass on to its cadets.

Bill To Disclose Slaveholder Insurance Policies

from *Southern Maryland Online*

Law students and civil rights activists recently endorsed a bill that would require insurance companies to report pre-1865 slaveholder insurance policies in order to do business in the state of Maryland. The legislation would require insurance companies to disclose the information, including the names of the slaves and slaveholder involved, to the state's insurance commissioner who would then prepare a report for the public that would also be posted on a state web site.

"We need to learn a lot more, and part of the point of this bill is to provide us with some information about the role of insurance companies in all of these aspects of slavery and the slave trade," said S. Ifill, a law professor at the University of Maryland. Ifill said insurance companies were connected to slavery in various ways, including issuing policies on individual slaves, receiving slaves as payment from debtors and permitting slaves to be used as collateral for loans. Before the slave trade was abolished in 1808, policies also existed for ships involved in the slave trade.

The bill, sponsored by state Senator Lisa Gladden, D-Baltimore, was heard before the state Senate Finance Committee. Similar legislation is already in place in California and Illinois, while Iowa requested the information on a voluntary basis. Disclosure of this information from insurance companies will reveal how closely the pre-Civil War economy was intertwined with the institution of slavery

The Last Days of the Gettysburg Visitor Center



This is one of last photos of the “old” Gettysburg Visitory Center on the Taneytown Road. It housed the best bookstore in town as well as the Electric Map and a museum. This is where you hired your licensed battlefield guide, boarded the bus for the Eisenhower farm tour, and found clean restrooms.

Demolition began on March 25, 2009 as part of the effort of the National Park Service to restore the Ziegler’s Grove area closer to its 1863 appearance.



On May 3, 2009 the demolition was complete.

photos courtesy of www.gettysburgdaily.com

Onondaga County Civil War Round Table New Member/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: A. Scott Cauger Treasurer

216 Windebank Lane

Minoa, NY 13116

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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