

May/June 2007
Volume 13 Number 9/10

The Battlefield

Newsletter of the Onondaga County Civil War Round Table

2006-07 OCCWRT Officers

Jim Dromgoole, President
315 457-2999
yankeetrader07@aol.com

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

Dave Osborn, Treasurer
315 446-1715

Bill Goodwin, Secretary/Publicity
315 437-3887

Dick Crozier, Trustee
607 753-9803
dickcrozier@yahoo.com

Kevin Milcarek, Trustee
315 374-2218

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

Pat Stepanek, Newsletter Editor
315 696-5531
pstepane@ix.netcom.com

Meeting Site *The Warehouse*

**Syracuse University
School of Architecture**

**350 West Fayette St
Syracuse, NY
Room 3 Ground Floor**

**Thursday
May 17, 2007
Show and Tell 7 PM**

&

**Wednesday
June 6, 2007
7 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.

Meeting Dates and Double Newsletter

Our May meeting will be on our regular date, May 17th, the third Thursday of the month. However, our June meeting, the last meeting of the season, will be held just three weeks later- Wednesday, June 6th. This revised meeting date is necessary to accommodate our speaker. Please note this date on your calendars. The tight time frame between meetings makes a June newsletter an impossibility.

Our May meeting will be a *Show and Tell* meeting. This is your chance to entertain and educate us with anything you wish that is Civil War related. Past *Show and Tell* meetings have always shown the great diversity of interests amongst our members.

On Wednesday June 6th, we are pleased to host Patrick Schroeder, the park historian at Appomattox Courthouse National Historic Park, Appomattox, Va. He will be in the area for the weekend Civil War events at Petersburg, NY and we are sharing him with two other round tables. Thus, the meeting date change. Mr. Schroeder graduated cum laude with a B.S. in Historical Park Administration from Shepherd College and a M.A. in Civil War History from Virginia Tech. His first book and the topic of his presentation, *Thirty Myths About Lee's Surrender*, is now in its 10th printing. He and his wife Maria, writer/poet, editor and graphic artist, now own Schroeder Publications, and together they have written, edited, and/or published sixteen Civil War titles including *We Came to Fight: The History of the 5th NY Veteran Volunteer Infantry, Duryee's Zouaves (1863-1865)*. Many of his titles will be for sale at the meeting. Remember, Wednesday, June 6th will be our last meeting of the 2006-2007 and will include the election of next season's officers.

President's Message

On the weekend of April 28-29, members of the OCCWRT traveled to Gettysburg to take part in the Adopt-A-Position Program sponsored by the National Park Service. On Saturday we spent close to 3 hours trimming trees and brush, raking leaves and seeding the area around the statue of General George S. Greene on the Culp's Hill Summit. After completing our task, we had a pizza party at Dino's on Steinwehr Ave. On Sunday we had a tour of the battlefield conducted by Rich Kohr, a licensed battlefield guide. He gave us a wonderful tour telling us how the battle unfolded with special emphasis on the role of the troops from Onondaga County. A special thanks goes to Scott Cauger, Bill Goodwin, Mike Carpenter and Mary Lee, and the Conrad family, including members Nancy and Collyn, and my wife, Karin for making the trip and putting in a lot of hard work.

Remember our next meeting on May 17th is *Show and Tell* night. Bring anything you care to share with the members such as artifacts, documents, pictures, family history, or an interesting book. Also please note our final meeting in June on Wednesday, June 6th in the auditorium of the Warehouse will feature Appomattox historian and author Patrick Schroeder.

June 9-10 the OCCWRT will have a booth at the Peterboro Civil War Days. Please volunteer to spend some time at the booth. A sign up sheet will be at our May meeting.

Jim Dromgoole, President

Peterboro, NY Civil War Weekend

Saturday, June 9th - Sunday June 10th: Living History, Battle Reenactment, Union and Confederate encampments, Period Music, Crafts, Books, and Food.

For information: <http://www.sca-peterboro.org>.

National Spotlight for Dick Crozier



Charles F. Lee photo used with permission

Member Dick Crozier, aka General Lee, successfully premiered his one-man-play “Robert E. Lee” to a sold out audience in Cumming, Georgia in late March. Just as he was about to return to Central New York, he received a call inviting him as General Lee to the observance of the 200th birthday of General Lee at Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol on Saturday, April 7th. Each state has provided 2 statues of their great citizens for Statuary Hall. Virginia is represented by George Washington and Robert E. Lee. After shaking hands with General Lee, noted Civil War historian, Dr.

James Robertson, began the ceremony with his perspective on the fascinating life of General Lee. The Confederate Tuscarora Brass Band filled the hall with echos of “Dixie” followed by a salute to the U.S. flag. Flower wreaths were advanced to the statue. General Lee accompanied a wreath representing the Robert E. Lee Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and placed it with a salute at the base of the statue of General Lee. We see Dick Crozier in the above photo with Mrs. Schaick, VP General of the UDC and Ms. West, District of Columbia Division President. A surprised Capitol tour group stopped and asked the General to make a few comments which he did in his soft southern voice. Notice General Lee wisely chose not to wear his sword. The obligatory search by the Capitol Police might not have been completed with good humor.

Another national event awaits living historian Dick Crozier on June 3rd, Jefferson Davis’ birthday. A combination celebration/memorial ceremony, entitled “General Lee Comes Home”, to be held in Arlington National Military Cemetery at the Confederate Memorial near the Custis/Lee Mansion will feature Dick Crozier/General Lee as the main speaker. Sponsored by the UDC, participants from every corner of the U.S. will gather on the old Custis/Lee plantation just across the Potomac River from Washington, DC. Crozier/Lee will feel comfortable in these surroundings which Lee never again saw after 1861. The federal government confiscated the property shortly after the battle of 1st Bull Run to bury Union soldiers. The first burials were made in Mrs. Lee’s rose garden.

Would You Have Won?

This was the \$100,000 question on a recent *Millionaire* program. The contestant chose to walk away with his \$50,000 because he wasn’t sure of the answer. How would you have answered it?

In what battle did Gen. Thomas Jackson earn the nickname of “Stonewall”? Antietam, 1st Bull Run, Fredericksburg, or Gettysburg?

Historians are not sure whether Conf. Gen. Bee meant the name as a compliment or insult. Were Jackson’s men gallantly standing “stock still” under fire or were they standing there like a stone wall instead of coming to Bee’s aid? Bee died a few hours later.

Tour Schedule Historic Oakwood Cemetery Preservation Association

The always fascinating Sunday tours of Oakwood Cemetery begin in May and continue through September. Weather permitting, tours begin at the 1879 chapel. Signs will direct you from the Cemetery entrance in the 900 block of Comstock Avenue. Allow two hours for the tours. The OCCWRT will have bottled water for sale to add dollars to the Summer Fund. For more information, call 682-6312.

May 20 Oakwood’s Landscape Design 2 PM

Professor George Curry, a member of the ESF faculty will lead a tour focusing on Howard Daniels 1859 design of a “rural cemetery”, so popular at the time. Oakwood is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. The tour will include examples of trees, shrubs and other flora. Professor Curry will explain how the plantings relate to and enhance the overall Landscape Design.

June 24 Political Figures of Oakwood 2 PM

Margaret Olivia Slocum Sage graciously accepted our invitation to lead a tour of the final resting places of some of the outstanding politicians of earlier days. She pointed out that she knew many of them personally and knows “the inside stories”. Mrs Sage will be portrayed by Sue Greenhagen.

July 22 Writers, Authors & Forgotten Poets 2 PM

No, we don’t have Mark Twain or Walt Whitman, but we do have fascinating writers who made their mark (though relatively small) in the field of literature and poetry. Darothy DeAngelo will introduce you to some of the most famous writers you’ve never heard of.

August 19 Architects & Builders of Syracuse 2 PM

The Architectural Guru of Syracuse, Dennis Connors, OHA Curator of History, will introduce us to the many architects and builders whose works stand as a memorial to their talents as well as to their names. Oakwood is proud to be called their final home.

Sept. 23 Athletes (yes, Athletes) of Oakwood 2 PM

You’ll be surprised to learn that we have professional baseball names, as well as lacrosse players, tennis champs, golfers, and an S.U. football runner who was tackled by a reporter during a game in 1897. Roy Simmons, Jr. will lead our tour.

And A--way We Go...

Three members of OCCWRT attended the spring conference of A.P.H.N.Y.S. (Assoc. of Public Historians of N.Y.S.) in Utica recently. Sue Greenhagen, Town of Eaton and Village of Morrisville Historian, Ruth Hotaling, Town of Pompey Historian, and Darothey DeAngelo, Oran Community Church Historian (and affiliate member), traveled all the way to Utica to be part of the semi-annual gathering of historians from all over New York State.

Along with talks by experts in many historic fields, Sue and Darothey gave a presentation on, “Living History Meets the Loomis Gang.” This was not only a discussion of the role of living historians in teaching history, but a demonstration of what an encounter between William F. Bonney, Sheriff of Madison County, and Rhoda Loomis, notorious matriarch of “the gang”, might have been like.

The audience of fellow historians was delighted with the program/demonstration. Since many attendees were from other parts of New York State, it became evident that they were unfamiliar with this band of local outlaws. If nothing else, they went home with new-found information about our infamous 19th century crime family. And, yes, this is part of our local history.

So, on to the next conference in Catskill in the fall.

Research Notes: Onondaga County in the Civil War

by Courtney L. Tucker

During my research at the National Archives on the soldiers from Tully, I discovered something unique about Thomas Dewire of Company "B" of the Loudoun Independent Rangers of Virginia, who fought for the Union against Mosby's Rangers. "Dewire" may also be Thomas "Dwyer" from Fabius, formerly of Company K, 122nd New York Infantry, who appears in the Tully Town Clerk's 1865 report to Albany. The difference in spelling is probably the result of his inability to write, so the phonetic spelling of Dwyer/Dewire depended upon how the company clerk heard the name pronounced by the soldier when enlisting. The 122nd New York supported an artillery battery during the battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862; then over May 3-4, 1863, they "took part in the storming of the heights above Fredericksburg and the battle of Salem Heights" as part of the Chancellorsville campaign. Thomas deserted the 122nd NY on July 1, 1863, on the march to Gettysburg, after serving faithfully for nearly one year. Apparently, he then enlisted in the Loudoun Rangers for some unknown reason on July 27, 1863, at Potomac Furnace, Virginia. He served out of Point of Rocks, Maryland until discharged as a Sergeant on May 31, 1865, in Bolivar, Virginia. His age, height, blue eyes, light hair all match the descriptive list for both organizations, except he was shown as born in Ireland in the records of the Third Onondaga, but told the Rangers he was born in Snaptown, Virginia. The Rangers' descriptive list shows Fabius, Onondaga County, New York as his birthplace. Thomas must have come back to Tully after the war because the Town Clerk entered him in his report and noted he had deserted and joined the Loudoun Rangers. Perhaps Thomas was just another in a long line of infantrymen throughout history who just wanted to ride.

2006-07 Membership

As of the 6th of May, the OCCWRT has 42 paid members. We thank all our members for their continued financial support of the round table.

Proposed 2007-2008 Ballot

According to Article VI of our Constitution, all officers and trustees shall be elected at the annual meeting in June, and they may serve 2 terms. The nominations for next season's OCCWRT have been issued by the nominating committee consisting of Ruth Hotaling and Darothy DeAngelo. All of the candidates are active members. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. If you can not attend the June meeting, you may email your acceptance of the nominees to pstepane@ix.netcom.com or call 682-6312 or 696-5531. The proposed nominees are as follows:

President: Jim Dromgoole

Vice President: Bill Goodwin

Secretary: Dave Osborn

Treasurer: Richard Walker

Trustee: Elaine Tucker

Trustee: Su eGreenhagen

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: Dave Osborn, Treasurer

2 Thistlewood Lane

Fayetteville, NY 13066

Please find \$ _____ enclosed in form of

Circle One:

Check M.O. Cash

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

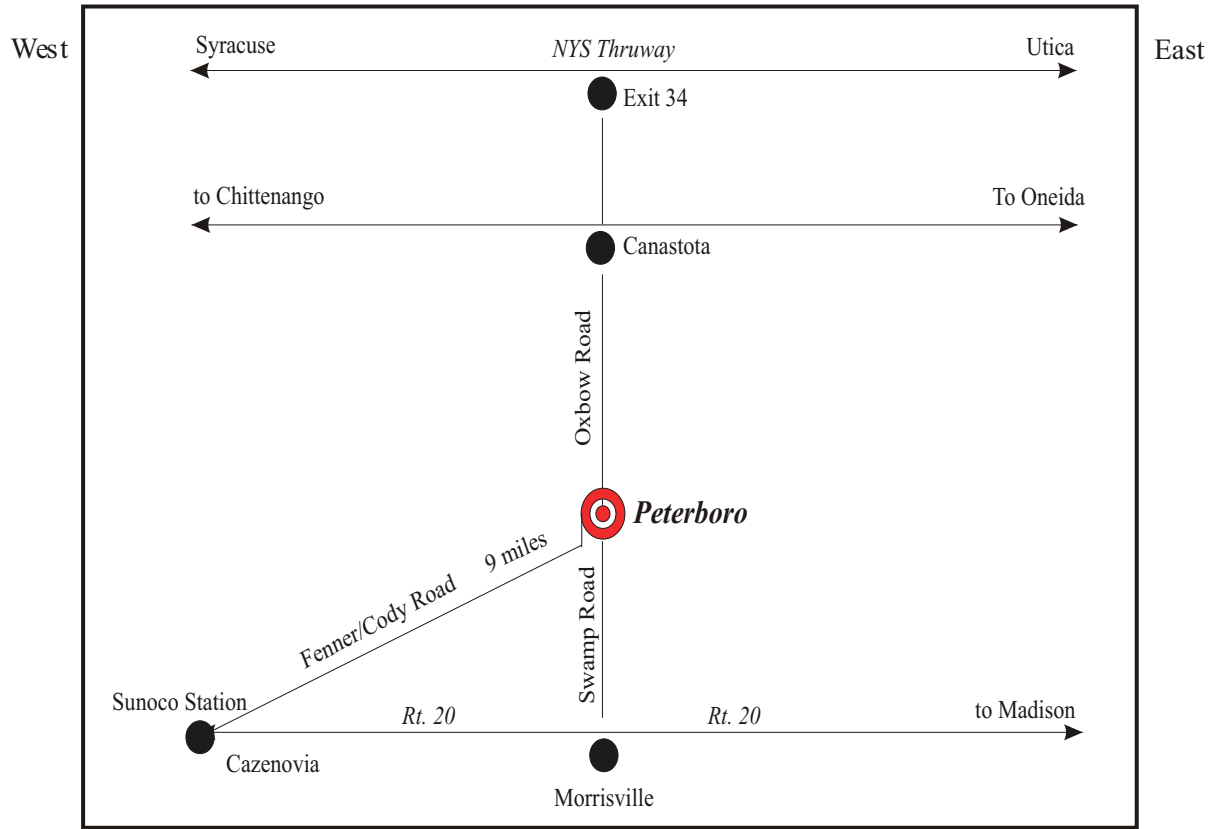
Telephone _____

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.

Directions to Peterboro, NY



Onondaga County
Civil War Round Table PO Box 175 Tully, NY 13159-0175

Next Newsletter - September 2007