



Vol. 11 No. 2  
October 2004

# The Battlefield

Newsletter of the Onondaga County Civil War Round Table

## 2004-05 OCCWRT Officers

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**Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 21,**  
**2004**  
**NYSUT Building 7 PM**

**The Battle of Pea  
Ridge**

Take 481 to Exit 7  
Take 298 West  
Take your first Left. Turn onto  
Brittonfield Parkway. The NYSUT  
Building is the Third on the right.  
Parking in the rear. Enter by rear door.

Meetings are held the third Thursday  
of the month from September through  
June.

## President's Message

Welcome October! It's hard to believe that the leaves are almost gone. Seems like the summer never really arrived. It was great to see you all at the September meeting. Darothy DeAngelo did a super job with her presentation on General Sumner, and we now know who he is and why he's here. A few familiar faces were missed, and we hope all is well and that you will join us again on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

We set up our table at the Madison County Hopfest and handed out much information. It seems as if everyone has a Civil War relative somewhere.

As I am writing this we are busy preparing for the first OHA Haunted Happening. Many of us will be guiding those who are not afraid of the history ghosts. I hope you attended this highly anticipated event October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

I am looking forward to an entertaining and educational year ahead. Hope to see you at our next meeting.

Mimi Rudy, Co-President

## Win A Free Book Raffle Ticket

Answer this trivia question at our October Meeting

In the 1860's what did "argee", "popskull", "purl" and "ardent" refer to?

## Seminary Ridge Symposium- Nov. 5-6 2004

The Seminary Ridge Historic Preservation Foundation of Gettysburg will host its annual symposium. This year's theme is *Lessons Under Fire: What We Learn From War*. Speakers will include Greg Coco, Dr. Kent Gramm, Tim Smith, Dr. Carol Reardon, and Dr. Robert Brigham. All lectures will be held in historic Schmucker Hall on campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary. More information is available at [www.seminaryridge.org](http://www.seminaryridge.org) or 717 334-6286. One of the surprises of the symposium that I attended 2 years ago was an invitation to all of the attendees and speakers to the President's house on campus for wine and hors d'oeuvres after Friday night's lecture. I was able to spend a few minutes with Dr. McPherson that evening and he graciously answered a question I had about General Meade. For those who want a stimulating early November weekend getaway in Gettysburg, this is it!



## Clothes-Drying On the March

While traveling with the federal army, Edwin Forbes, staff artist for *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, sketched a Union soldier drying his socks and handkerchief on the run. Forbes adds the following:

“During the summer march, sun, rain and dust and the contact with twigs and briars soon ruined the uniforms, and the men often presented a forlorn and battered appearance, as opportunities for cleaning and repairing were few. Washing was done hastily during the short halts, the clothes getting only “a lick and a promise.” Time for drying was not to be thought of, and shirts and socks and bandanna handkerchiefs were often attached to the muskets, and fluttered and dried in the breeze as the soldiers marched along. The ever-rising clouds of dust did not improve the color of the washed garments, but the brave fellows learned early to live without the luxuries of private life, and accepted gratefully any comforts that came to them, however slight they might be.”

“Many times when moving along behind the Union breastworks I have seen a great variety of clothes hanging out to dry. Some would be hung across the top of the pup tents, some on the ends of the ridge-poles, and others scattered about on low limbs of trees. Advantageous as these opportunities seemed, however, the clothes were often perforated by bullets.”

From: *An Artist's Memoir of the Civil War* by Edwin Forbes

***Has anybody witnessed this scene at a reenactment or in a Civil War film?***

## Civil War News Stories From

[www.civilwarinteractive.com](http://www.civilwarinteractive.com)

9/29/04 Professor James McPherson, considered by many the preeminent scholar of the Civil War, has concluded a 42-year teaching career with his retirement from Princeton University. Students in his final class attempted to execute a 21-gun salute with a vigorous sort of squirt gun know as a Super-Soaker. Due to poor tactical control, only seven shots were fired. Though officially retired he is working on two books, *Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief in the Civil War* and *Navies of the Civil War*. He will speak at the 2005 Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College.

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9/13/04 Two 17,000 pound 11 inch Dahlgren cannons were lifted out of the recently raised turret of the USS Monitor by a crew from Northrop Grumman and will spend the next five years in individual tanks undergoing electrolytic reduction conservation to remove corrosive salts from the iron. The work is being done at the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary in Newport News, VA. When the Monitor sank in a storm off Cape Hatteras in March 1862, the weight of the turret flipped the ship upside down as it sank. When the turret was recovered by teams of divers from the US Navy and other agencies two years ago, the skeleton of one of the ship's crew was found beneath one of the Dahlgren guns he had served.

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9/12/04 Though a bronze statue at Gettysburg National Military Park commemorates Gen. John Buford's stand on the morning of July 1, 1863, Buford is a forgotten hero in his home state of Kentucky. “There are no monuments to John Buford in Kentucky that I know of,” said John Trowbridge, director of the Kentucky Military Museum in Frankfort. Buford, who was badly wounded and left for dead after the 1862 battle of Second Bull Run, did not survive the Civil War. He succumbed to typhoid fever on Dec. 16, 1863 and was buried at West Point.

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7/9/04 The Gettysburg Convention and Visitors Bureau estimated that 250,00 people visited Gettysburg for the Civil War Heritage Days from June 26-July 4<sup>th</sup> leaving behind \$20 million in tourism revenue.

## And We're Off...

This month we're going to Arkansas to witness the Battle of Pea Ridge (Elkhorn Tavern). This will be accomplished through the electronic technology of a video tape supplied by Ruth Hotaling.

The conflict in March 1862 was the first decisive Union victory west of the Mississippi. Although there were no "famous" generals involved, you might recognize the names Gen. Franz Sigel, USA, "Wild Bill" Hickok, a Union scout, and Col. Stand Waite, a Cherokee Confederate officer.

This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about a relatively unknown, but important, early battle of the Civil War.

All this from the comfort of your upholstered seat in the NYSUT "theater" on Oct. 21 at 7 PM.

## OHA'S *Haunted History Happening*

Sold out crowds attended the First Annual OHA Ghost Walk on October 8-9. Six OCCWRT members participated in the event.

Sue Greenhagen was a bereaved mother attending a séance to seek comfort from her loss. Darothy DeAngelo was 96-year old Sarah Sumner Teall who along with her father, General Edwin V. Sumner, played by Neal MacMillan of the 12<sup>th</sup> US Regulars, visited the site of Sarah's home on East Fayette and Townsend to recount memories of their lives before they returned to the Teall plot in Oakwood Cemetery.

Bill Goodwin, Dave Osborn, Mimi Rudy and Pat Stepanek guided groups of 25-35 to the six "haunted" sites within a block or two of the OHA. They met Harvey Baldwin the first mayor of Syracuse, on the steps of City Hall. Cora Tanner, a noted actress of her day, vividly recounted her escape from the Leland Hotel fire. A family of former slaves dramatically planned their escape from Syracuse because of the newly enacted Fugitive Slave Law.

Already plans for next year are in the works for the Second Annual leap into Syracuse's past.

## 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 \$5.00  
 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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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.



The Séance

## Ghost Tour Images



Sumner and daughter, Sarah



Grieving mother



OCCWRT Guides

**Onondaga County Civil War Round Table  
2569 Gardner Road  
Fabius, NY 13063**