Robert O. Richter of Greene, NY will focus on the 114th NYSV recruited in 1862 from Broome, Cortland, Delaware, Oneida, Onondaga & Otsego Counties. He will focus on the movements of the regiment from recruitment, training, their service in Louisiana, Washington, D.C., and the Shenandoah Valley. Richter will discuss reasons for the Western campaign and give us some insight into the third Valley Campaign.

He is a man of accomplishments. He completed an eight volume set on the Union Regiments during the Gettysburg Campaign. *What Happened to the Greene Company and the Families of the 114th NYSV*, his most recent book, is a compilation of the families of the men who served in the 114th NYSV to the families the men started. This presents a genealogy of each of the 1137 men of the regiment from 1750 - 1930 with insights into their families and anecdotes about the men.

**President Scott Cauger’s Message**

I will be brief since I have been out-of-pocket this past month managing a medical situation concerning my aging parents including being in Kansas City recently for two weeks. Fortunately, we have a hard working, dedicated Executive Council which has continued advancing a number of important initiatives and projects while I have been MIA.

**OHA:** I met with the Onondaga Historical Association Director Gregg A. Tripoli September 17 to discuss collaborative ideas and items of mutual interest. Among the projects, OCCWRT will be partnering with OHA in the Civil War Sesquicentennial and planning a commemorative event next year. I will be serving on an ad-hoc joint committee with OHA staff.

**WEBSITE:** Public Affairs Chair Gerry Allen continues to work on developing an OCCWRT standalone website with input from his Committee and the Executive Council (“EC”) regarding design, functionality and content.

**OCCWRT GOALS & MISSION:** The EC has, since Bill Goodwin was President, been discussing the need for long term planning and discussing
President’s Message (cont’d)

various long term goals and objectives. I made identifying long-term goals one of the early initiatives in my administration. The Executive Council has approved six (6) long-term goals over a two-year horizon. More details on these goals will be provided in the next newsletter (tasked for me to do this month but unavoidably postponed due to my family medical emergency). Also, the EC will be drafting a Mission Statement to better articulate and clarify OCCWRT’s mission keying off the Statement of Purpose in the organization's By-Laws.

FRANKLIN'S CHARGE: We are still seeking individual contributions to Franklin's Charge to help financially support acquisition of the Cotton Gin property (at the heart of the Battle of Franklin). Membership contribution forms and campaign brochures will be on the sign-up table at each of the General Member meetings October through December. Also, work is progressing on the Silent Auction to be held in November. To-date, we have procured donated gifts, or commitments to donate items to sell at the auction, from the David Krutz (author Distant Drummer: Herkimer County in the Civil War), Civil War Preservation Trust and Onondaga County Historical Association. While any donated item of value will be greatly appreciated, items of any kind related to the Civil War or central New York history are preferred. If you plan to donate any items for the auction please contact Diane Haller, Chair of the Projects and Fundraising Committee. Diane's contact information can be found in this edition of The Battlefront.

GETTYSBURG/GREENE STATUE: Kathy Ryan, Chair of the ad hoc Committee on Special Events/Road Trips has ascertained that the OCCWRT’s license with the National Park Services (NPS”) to maintain the Greene equestrian statue on Culp's Hill is still extant. Plans for a trip to Gettysburg to clean-up and maintain the grounds around the statue will be discussed at future EC Meetings (held the 2nd of every month). Be watchful and prepared regarding a call for volunteers to participate in such an expedition and worthy mission.

DUES: This is a reminder that OCCWRT dues for all members (new and old) for next year are due by year end and we will be collecting dues for next year starting at our next meeting October 21, 2010, through January 20, 2011 (our first meeting 2011). As you recall, OCCWRT extended the dues deadline in 2009 after it increased dues for discounted member categories and initiated dues pro-ration for new members (thereby giving existing members an extra three months free membership). That, plus two extra meetings this year over the summer, has more than compensated for the modest dues increase in connection with a few membership categories.

Thank you for your continued participation and interest in the Roundtable.

Kindest Regards, A. Scott Cauger

Secretaty Lisa Bradley's Report

At its August 12, 2010 and September 9, 2010 meetings, the Executive Committee adopted six top goals and objectives for 2010 and 2011: (1) increase OCCWRT membership by 20%; (2) undertake the Franklin Charge Battlefield Restoration Project; (3) elucidate a Mission Statement for the OCCWRT; (4) sponsor a Sesquicentennial Event, ideally with co-sponsorship (such as the Onondaga Historical Association); (5) expand the OCCWRT to include other Central New York geographical areas; and (6) develop an OCCWRT website.

Gerry Allen has developed a prototype OCCWRT website, which will be reviewed further at the next Executive Committee meeting. It will include links to other civil war organizations; a membership application form; the OCCWRT constitution, bylaws and mission statement; explanation of the purpose of Civil War Round Tables; history of the OCCWRT; program schedules and descriptions; special events; Civil War regiments from our area; a sample newsletter; and a "contact us" link.

Diane Haller has drafted a Mission Statement for the OCCWRT, which will be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Mike and Kathy’s Virginia Trip

by Mike Carpenter

Kathy Ryan and I recently returned from a six day vacation to Virginia. We left on a Tuesday and had a few days to kill before we were scheduled to be in Newport News for a familiarization tour of the area on Thursday afternoon.

Our first stop was in Sharpsburg, Maryland at the Antietam Battlefield. By the time we had arrived, the Visitors Center was closed so I took Kathy, who had
never been there, to some of the major points of interest. It was getting dark and we had just enough time to quickly view the Dunker Church, the Bloody Lane, and Burnside’s Bridge.

Our next stop was Harpers Ferry where we had intended to pay a brief visit to the Visitors Center. We did not know that much about the area, so we decided to take the shuttle bus down into town and spend some time exploring. Once down there we were very surprised to see that a good deal of the town was in much the same condition it was over 140 years ago. It was an amazing step back in time. Having survived a lot of major flooding in its history, the restoration of many of the original buildings is unbelievable. The view from the Point is spectacular as one can gaze down at the junction of the mighty Potomac and Shenandoah rivers. The scenery is even better from high up on Jefferson’s Rock.

I actually got to see the area in town where the events took place that were described in the article I submitted for last month’s newsletter. That was the story of how the 8th NY Cavalry had escaped Harpers Ferry just before the Confederates started shelling and eventually capturing the town a few days before the battle at Antietam. We had tried to see all the buildings and attractions before they closed for the evening, but we will have to return another time to catch the rest.

The next day we drove to Newport News, Virginia. The weather was horrible. It was raining cats and dogs! According to one report, some areas received up to 12 inches of rain. The event we attended in Newport News was the same one Kathy had informed the membership about at our September meeting. We were invited by the Newport News Division of Tourism to participate in a three-day, all expense paid, sightseeing tour of the city and surrounding areas. Along with members of three other CW Round Tables, we were given brief tours of hotels and restaurants in hopes that we would organize our groups to visit the city. The best part of the deal was that we were taken to the many historical sights in the area.

John V. Quarstein, a noted historian, author, lecturer, film producer, television personality, and champion in helping preserve many battlefield sites in Virginia, was our guide. The first site we visited was the Victory Arch, the point where service men departed for and returned home from action in WW I. Next we visited the Overlook, the site where the Monitor and Merrimac battled on March 9, 1862.

At the Mariners Museum, we were given an exclusive tour behind the scenes of the restoration of the turret section of the Monitor. The turret had been recovered a few years ago and is being methodically disassembled. This is a slow and painstaking process. Extreme care is taken so the metal parts don’t deteriorate any further. The museum curator mentioned that it may take another twenty years before the turret is fully restored.

Over the next two days, we toured the Virginia War Museum, several battle sites (Lee’s Mills and Battle of Dam Number 1) and the last two plantations still surviving on the Virginia Peninsula (Lee Hall and Endview). At Endview our group was treated to a specially assembled battle between reenactors with cavalry units from Virginia and New York.

Sadly, on Sunday it was time to head back home. We had a great time. Kathy and I learned a great deal during the tour of southern Virginia, and, as we made our way north, we observed many road signs telling of familiar battlefields we will surely have to explore on the next trip to Virginia.

This Year’s OCCWRT Contributions

This past May (2010), the OCCWRT Executive Council made contributions totaling $650 to four organizations whose purposes of preserving historic sites and promoting an enhanced understanding of the Civil War the round table supports.

The Onondaga Historical Association received $200 to be put toward the reprinting of the Civil War Flag booklet that describes all of the local Civil War flags that have been conserved and are available for viewing at the County Clerk’s office in Syracuse. A letter from Executive Director Gregg Tripoli thanked the OCCWRT for helping the OHA continue its mission of preserving and interpreting the history of Syracuse and all of Onondaga County.

Michele Gavaitz, Executive Director of the Friends of Grant Cottage, thanked the round table for our $100 check that will help ensure the story of General Grant will continue in the future, and the upkeep and repair of the cottage will be funded. New York State does not contribute funds to the Cottage.

The $100 leadership level donation to the Civil War Preservation Trust was acknowledged with a letter of thanks that made an interesting point. “The generation of adults who are alive today is the last one that will have the chance to save battlefields,” the letter stated. The next generation will have to reclaim battlefields; that is, they will have to remove whatever development is there to restore the site. For example, a car dealership was recently removed from the Gettysburg battlefield, and a Pizza Hut at Franklin, Tenn. Both projects prove it is possible to reclaim sacred land but at a much higher cost.

The fourth and final donation of $250 was made to Franklin’s Charge, a consortium of preservation groups from Williamson County, Tenn who joined forces in 2005 to protect, preserve, reclaim, and interpret the 1864 Franklin Battlefield that had been declared a “lost” battlefield by the Civil War Preservation Trust in early 2000. To date Franklin’s Charge has reclaimed 112 acres of the eastern flank of the battle site, the nation’s largest reclamation of a Civil War battlefield. The cost of the acquisition was $5 million. Their letter of thanks looks forward to their being able to share with us their progress in the near future.

Our present $2000 fund-raising project is in support of Franklin’s Charge continuing progress to reclaim the Cotton Gin property. Currently the property has both commercial development and residential homes on it. During the 1864 battle it was the principal focus of the bloodiest five hours of the Civil War. The price is in excess of $3.2 million for the property which when reclaimed will be a battlefield park with the rebuilt cotton gin and interpretive earthworks.

OCCWRT members can help us meet our $2000 goal by contributing directly to Franklin’s Charge (donation forms available at our monthly meetings or from the website: www.franklinscharge.com). Be sure to include the initials of the round table on the donation form. The proceeds from our November silent auction will be used to meet our $2000 pledge. Your participation in the auction will be necessary for us to meet our goal. Fund-raising ends December 31, 2010, the end of our fiscal year.

Interesting Auction at Sotheby’s

Robert F. Kennedy’s copy of the Emancipation Proclamation will be sold at a Dec. 10th auction at Sotheby’s. It is expected to sell for as much as $1.5 million. The document hung in the main hallway of Hickory Hill, Kennedy’s 1840’s home in McLean, Va.
Just before signing the original document, Lincoln stated, “I never, in my life, felt more certain that I was doing right than I do in signing this paper.” The document acknowledged that the Civil War was being fought to free the slaves. A hundred years later, Robert Kennedy as Attorney General of the United States must have found inspiration from the document as he enforced civil rights legislation.

Kennedy bought the printed copy of the 1863 document shortly after its centennial celebration at the White House. Printed in black ink on acid-free paper, Kennedy paid $9,500 at a Sotheby’s auction. His copy is one of 48 printed copies signed by President Lincoln. Half are known to survive: 14 are in public institutions and another eight to ten are privately owned. The original, handwritten Emancipation Proclamation is in the National Archives. Lincoln had signed the 48 copies which were used to raise money for medical care for Union soldiers by the Sanitary Commission, a forerunner of the Red Cross. The Kennedy copy was first sold in 1864 at a Sanitary Commission fair in Philadelphia.

September Speaker, David Krutz

David Krutz’s extensively mined examination of the lives of Union soldiers clarified, as well, the lives of Union prisoners of war. When a Union prisoner was paroled, he awaited his exchange in one of three Union “parole camps.” Whether at Camp Chase in Columbus, Ohio, or Benton Barracks near St. Louis, Missouri, or Camp Parole in Annapolis, Maryland, Union detainees resented confinement as they awaited an equal number of Confederates to be captured and then paroled. Parole life became more difficult after the War Department charged that large numbers were surrendering in order to wait out their enlistment from the safety of Union lines. Conditions worsened as detainees found themselves in overcrowded and unsanitary camps with no alcohol, gambling, or town liberty allowed. Many of the camp buildings were burned by the dissatisfied parolees. When official paroles and exchanges stopped in May 1863, prisoners captured by both sides lived and died in prison camps such as Andersonville and Elmira.

The Oldest First Lieutenant in the Army

In 1892, General George Sears Greene (1801-1899) of Culp’s Hill fame was the oldest surviving Union general and the oldest living graduate of West Point. That same year, Greene petitioned Congress for a commission as captain in the regular army to make his family eligible for pension benefits at his death. Congress declined to promote him, but restored him to his highest rank while in service with the regular army. In August 1894, at age 93, Greene took the oath of office as a first lieutenant of artillery. His companions in the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States proudly proclaimed him the oldest lieutenant in world history.

Committees of the Onondaga County Civil War Round Table

Special Projects and Fundraising: Diane Haller, Chair 315 656 7059 greenfieldshd@yahoo.com
Bill & Cheryl LaManch 315 656 2075 cheryl.lamanche@yahoo.com
Lisa Bradley 315 638 0283 lgbesq@twcny.rr.com

Programs: Bill Goodwin, Chair 437-3887
Gerry Allen 315 638 7934 occwrt122@gmail.com

Special Events/Road Trips: Kathy Ryan, Chair kathleenryan100@earthlink.com
Darothy DeAngelo 315 682 6312
A. Scott Cauger ascott.cauger@us.ngrid.com

Newsletter Contributors: Kathy Ryan 315 251 5889 kathleenryan100@earthlink.com
Mike Carpenter 315 420 5299 amandamatt8890@yahoo.com
A. Scott Cauger ascott.cauger@us.ngrid.com
All OCCWRT Members are Encouraged to Contribute

Public Affairs: Gerry Allen 315 638 7934 occwrt122@gmail.com

Archivist: Darothy DeAngelo 315 682 6312
Dues for 2011 will be collected beginning with our October 21, 2010 meeting and continue through our first meeting of 2011 on January 20, 2011.

Membership Form
Onondaga County Civil War Round Table
2011 New Member/Renewal Form

*Membership dues of the OCCWRT are:

Please Check one of the Following
_____ $20.00 a year
_____ O.H.A. members $12.00
_____ Seniors and Students $16.00
_____ Family rate (2 or more) $32.00

Dues may be paid at meetings or sent to:
Onondaga County Civil War Round Table
ATTN: Dave Osborn, Treasurer
2 Thistlewood Lane
Fayetteville, New York 13088

Please find $_______ enclosed in form of
Circle One:
Check  M.O.  Cash

Date ____________________

* Dues will be pro-rated for new members who join at various times during the fiscal year.

The Onondaga County Civil War Round Table was organized in 1994 and is 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.