

Vol. 11 No. 1  
September 2004

# The Battlefront

*Newsletter of the Onondaga County Civil War Round Table*

## 2004-05 OCCWRT Officers

**Mimi Rudy**, Co- President  
315 677-9743  
[mimirudy@twcny.rr.com](mailto:mimirudy@twcny.rr.com)

**Beth Greenfield**, Co-President  
315 363-0012  
[BGreenfield@oneidahelathcare.org](mailto:BGreenfield@oneidahelathcare.org)

**Dave Osborn**, Treasurer  
315 446-1715

**Bill Goodwin**, Secretary  
315 437-3887

**Dave Cuculich**, Trustee  
315 452-0983

**Pat Stepanek**, Trustee  
Newsletter Editor  
315 696-5531  
[pstepane@ix.netcom.com](mailto:pstepane@ix.netcom.com)

### Meeting Sept. 16, 2004 NYSUT Building 7 PM

Topic: General Sumner:  
Who Was He?  
Why Is He Here?  
Speaker: Darothy DeAngelo

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

I would like to welcome you all back from a less than perfect summer. I knew we were in trouble when I had mosquitoes in the backyard in April.

The Onondaga County Civil War Roundtable is off to a flying start this year. In September we will be having our table set up at the Hops Fest in Oneida on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The following weekend is our biannual trip to Gettysburg for the Adopt-a-Position weekend cleanup. Please help with volunteering in these events. The more the merrier. Darothy is putting together an impressive schedule of speakers starting off with her presentation about General Edwin V. Sumner. The restoration of his gravesite is our ongoing project for fundraising.

I have yet to come up with a sign off. I am leaning towards sic semper.

Beth Greenfield

## Notes from the Program Chair

I've spent a great deal of time this summer (actually an hour or so) preparing a prospective list of speakers and topics for the 2004-2005 season. This schedule will have been presented to the Board on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> for approval. If they nod in the affirmative, I'll get busy (really) and finalize the list. More to come (obviously).

Darothy  
The Program Lady

## Adopt-A-Position Gettysburg

Our fall date for tending to General Greene on Culp's Hill is Saturday, Sept. 25, 2004. If you have never joined us for this, please consider it. Plans are being made for a tour on Sunday morning. Since October is a busy month at Gettysburg, we'll try late September this year for our clean up.

## A Haunted History Happening

The Onondaga Historical Association has announced the dates for the first annual "Ghost Walk" to be held in Syracuse on October 8 and 9, 7:00 – 9:00 PM each evening.

The OCCWRT is working closely on the planning committee to make this the huge success it is in other cities. We look to our members to volunteer as members of a "seance" to begin the tour, and also to act as guides to different "scenes" around Fayette Park and ending at City Hall before returning to the OHA for cider and donuts.

The tour will include Cindy Ennis of Rochester portraying Cora Tanner, an actress who survived the Leland Hotel fire of 1890; the recounting of a canal drowning by Vanessa Johnson; a dialogue between Gen. Edwin Vose Sumner and his daughter Sarah Sumner Teall, portrayed by Art Benschadel and Darothy DeAngelo. Lastly, you'll meet Harvery Baldwin, first mayor of Syracuse, portrayed by Scott Peall.

Enclosed in our newsletter is an advance sale order form if you can't volunteer but want to attend. It should be a great happening.

Darothy, the Ghost Lady

## Binghamton CW Round Table Banquet

On October 19<sup>th</sup> the BCWRT will gather at 6 p.m. at Brothers 2 Restaurant on Watson Blvd in Endwell for a banquet and presentation. Dr. Ben Dixon will illustrate the history of the interpretation of the Gettysburg Battlefield. This was well received at the 2003 Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College. The buffet will feature chicken marsala, sausage with peppers, broiled fish fillets with stir-fry, eggplant parmegiana, oven-roasted potatoes, salad bar, rolls, beverage, and ice cream for \$19 per person. This includes tax, tip and speaker's expenses. Reservations needed by Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. Contact Eileen Patch : 607/754-2372 or epatch@stny.rr.com

**Want to contribute to the newsletter?**

**Submissions are welcomed.**

Pat Stepanek 696-5531

PO Box 175 Tully, NY 13159-0175

pstepane@ix.netcom.com

## Binghamton CWRT Meeting

Thought you might like to know that our Civil War Round Table neighbors in Binghamton have an interesting meeting on Tuesday, September 21. Dr. Robert Sheridan, one of the team of scientists who discovered the Monitor wreck off Cape Hatteras, will talk about the discovery and recovery of the USS Monitor. Dr. Sheridan has a PhD in marine geophysics from Columbia University and has taught at the University of Delaware and Rutgers University. Dr. Sheridan will bring copies of his book, *Iron From the Deep: The Discovery and Recovery of the USS Monitor*. The CWRT meet at VFW Post 478 at 65 Carroll St. Binghamton at 7 p.m.



USS Monitor and CSS Virginia  
March 9, 1862 Hampton Roads, VA

## Congratulations To.....

The OCCWRT would like to congratulate the Onondaga Historical Association on the recognition they received from the Upstate History Alliance recently in Albany. The exhibit, *Freedom Bound*, was entered in the 2004 competition of historic projects and received the Award of Merit from this prestigious organization. Dennis Connors, Curator of History, accepted the award.

## “Cliffs” Notes for September Meeting



**General Edwin Vose Sumner**

Edwin Vose Sumner was born in Boston, Mass on January 30, 1797. In 1819, he was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant in the Regular Army, and served on the frontier. Sumner served under Gen. Winfield Scott in the Mexican War, and was wounded and brevetted. Appointed acting governor of New Mexico Territory; he later commanded Fort Leavenworth in 1856, fought against the Cheyennes in 1857 and led the Department of the West in 1858. Sumner accompanied President-elect Lincoln from Springfield to Washington, D.C. in 1861, and was appointed brigadier general on March 16th of that year. He led the II Corps in the Peninsula Campaign, South Mountain, and Antietam. Maj. Gen. George McClellan praised Sumner's leadership in the Battle of Seven Pines, and Sumner was promoted to major general to rank from July 5, 1862. After leading troops in the Battle of Fredericksburg, he was criticized for his strategies at the Battle of Antietam. Sumner was the oldest active corps commander in the Civil War and was disturbed by the criticism leveled at him. Thus, he asked to be relieved from duty. He was assigned to the Department of Missouri. Before leaving for his new assignment he visited his daughter Sarah Teall in Syracuse where he contracted pneumonia and died on March 21, 1863. He is buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

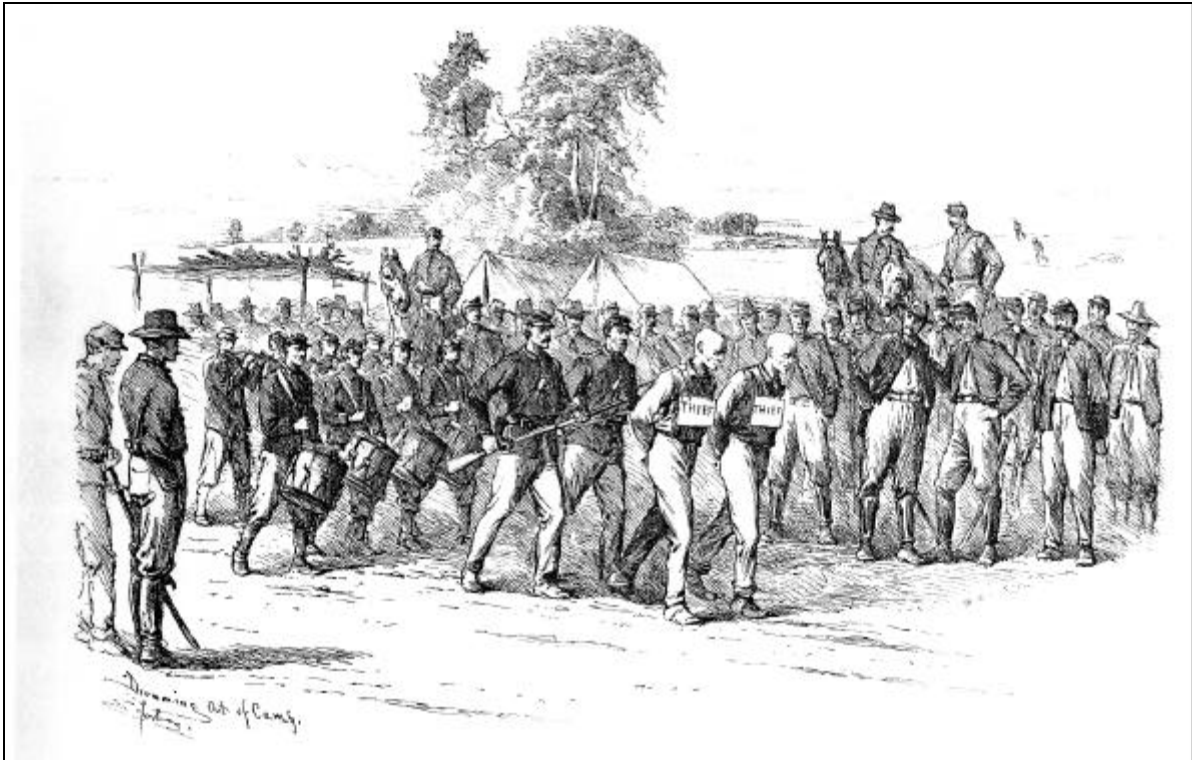
## In Case You Missed It

Dennis Connors, Curator of History at the OHA, will present a lecture on an interesting Civil War topic with a local connection. On Sunday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m., Dennis will speak on “*The Battle of Fort Stevens: How a Union Regiment from Onondaga County Helped Save Lincoln’s Re-election*”. The illustrated lecture will address the involvement of the 122<sup>nd</sup> NYV, also called the Third Onondaga, in the defense of Washington, DC. Admission is \$3- \$2 for OHA members. The OHA is located at 311 Montgomery St., Syracuse. Call 428-1864 for further information.

## Antietam Facts

From: [Antietam Revealed](#) by Dennis Frye

- Antietam is a Native American word that translates as “the swift current.”
- Washington County, the unfortunate host of the battle of Antietam, was established on Sept. 5, 1776, as the first county in the US named after George Washington.
- In the battle's first three hours, there were nearly 8,000 Union and Confederate casualties within a 700-yard radius of the center of The Cornfield.
- Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker, commander of the Union advance against the enemy left, was a Massachusetts native and grandson of a Revolutionary War veteran.
- General Sumner was the only corps commander at Antietam who was born in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- Confederate casualties in the Bloody Lane sector were nearly 2,500. Union casualties numbered about 3,000.
- Burnside Bridge is a three-arch, 125-foot limestone structure constructed in 1836 at a cost of \$2,300.
- Burnside was the *only* Union commander at Antietam to carry the position he was instructed to assault...the bridge.
- Burnside was age 38 at Antietam. Born on May 23, 1624, at Liberty, Indiana, Burnside was the son of a former South Carolina slave owner.



This first-hand observation and pictorial by Edwin Forbes, Civil War staff artist for *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, reveals one of the most terrible of all military disgraces:

### **Drummed Out Of Camp**

One summer day, while lounging in camp under the shade of a tent-fly, I heard some drummers and fifers playing the Rogue's March. Struck by the singularity of such an air I rose and walked to a bit of high ground and surveyed the surrounding camps as they lay parching in the sun. About a quarter of a mile distant, I saw a great crowd of soldiers scattered among the tents of a large camp, and more soldiers on horseback and on foot were hurrying from all directions toward the scene. Seeing that it was something unusual, I ran to my tent, seized my sketchbook and joined the crowd.

I found that two soldiers had been convicted of stealing from comrades, and sentenced to have their heads shaved and be drummed out of camp. The parade wheeled around the end of a line of tents and took a course through the length of the company street. The condemned men were the first in line, and in the bright light the pink skin of their close-shaven heads was a strange contrast to their brown, sunburned faces. Their hands were fastened behind them by bright steel

handcuffs. Each man was followed by a soldier with gun and fixed bayonet, which he carried pointed toward the culprit's back. In rear of these came two ranks of drummers and fifers who played viciously the Rogue's March and seemed to enjoy the opportunity.

The odd procession wound slowly in and out of the company streets, and the gaping crowd pushed and jostled to get a sight of the offenders. They jeered and laughed at the poor fellows who had fought at their sides, but who had betrayed comradeship and disgraced the name of soldier. The faces of the culprits were pictures of humiliation and mental suffering; they would no doubt have preferred death on the battlefield to this terrible ordeal. But the ceremony finally ended; the men were delivered to the guards who quickly departed with them. The crowd scattered and all traces of the strange scene soon disappeared.

From: Thirty Years After: An Artist's Memoir of the Civil War by Edwin Forbes

ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

A

Haunted  
History  
Happening



COME WALK A GHOSTLY TOUR WITH US  
STEP BACK INTO THE PAST TO REVIVE AND RELIVE OUR  
HAUNTED HISTORY

Friday and Saturday nights  
October 8 and 9, 2004  
7-9 pm

Onondaga Historical Association Museum  
321 Montgomery Street

ADVANCE SALE: \$5 Adults, \$3 Children 6-12

MEMBERS: \$4 Adults, \$2 Children 6-12

Tour Day: \$8 Adults, \$4 Children 6-12

428-1864

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Night of performance: Friday 10/8 \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday 10/9 \_\_\_\_\_

Check payable to Onondaga Historical Association  Visa  Mastercard

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Tickets will be held in your name at ticket table at door on night of performance*

## Interesting Campaign Slogan

One of the Confederate brigades that attacked Culp's Hill on the evening of July 2, 1863 was Brigadier General Francis Nicholls' Louisianans. Colonel Jesse Williams commanded the brigade for Nicholls did not serve at Gettysburg. Nichols had lost his left arm in 1862 and had his left foot blown off by a shell at Chancellorsville. In 1876 he ran for governor of his state known for its French Quarter, gumbo and strange

politics. His campaign motto was "*Vote For What's Left of General Nichols*". He did not win, but he also did not lose. He ran as a democrat and refused to accept his republican opponent's apparent victory, so the state was run in a dual administration until Nicholls was recognized as the winner by Federal authorities.

From: Culp's Hill by John Cox

### Treasurer's Report as of August 31, 2004

Silent Raffle	\$364.40
Peterboro	\$ 45.00
Oakwood Refreshments	\$30.00
Balance	\$2651.45
Restoration Fund (part of above balance)	\$1383.02

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## Onondaga County Civil War Roundtable

### New Membership/Renewal Form

#### Membership dues for 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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Please find \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed in form of  
Circle One:

Check    M.O.    Cash

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Onondaga County Civil War Round Table  
2589 Gardner Rd.  
Fabius, NY 13063**