

THE GUIDON

1897

THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

2018

Col. George L. Willard Camp # 154, P.O. Box 13681 Albany, NY 12212-3681 www.GLWILARD154.org

FALL 2018

Happy Birthday President Arthur



SUVCW, Col. George L. Willard Camp 154, color guard at the Chester Arthur grave site.

In 1967, then President Johnson started a tradition of placing red, white and blue flowers on each former President's grave on the anniversary of their birthday. Chester A. Arthur, the 21st President of the United States, was born on October 5, 1829. Therefore, this past October 5 a group of Brothers from the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War gathered at Albany Rural Cemetery where Arthur is buried. Brothers Malinoski, Straight CC, Castler, Swartwout, Keough PCC and McGuire DC formed a color guard for the commemorative event. The ceremony was well attended with a number of his descendants in attendance. The Brothers added a nice element reflecting Arthur's involvement in the Civil War.

Chester A. Arthur was born in Fairfield, VT, his father being a Northern Irish emigrant and preacher. The family moved to Schenectady, NY in 1832. He was educated at Union College and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa there. Union would awarded him an honorary degree of LL.D. (Doctor of Laws) in 1883. Arthur became an attorney in New York City where he worked on a number of slavery cases and the desegregation of the New York City street-car lines. Before the Civil War he was appointed to the military staff of Governor Edwin D. Morgan as engineer-in-chief. During the Civil War he was commissioned as a brigadier general and assigned to the NY state militia's quartermaster department. He stayed at this post until January of 1863 when a new Governor was inaugurated. After the war he became Collector at the Custom House of the Port of New York.

Chester Arthur was not elected President but became President upon the assassination of James A. Garfield. He did not run for re-election and died on November 18, 1886. A private funeral was held in New York City and he was then interred at Albany Rural Cemetery.



Chester Arthur was the 21st President of the United States, 1881 to 1885.



A very fine U.S. Air Force color guard stands near the Chester Arthur grave site in Albany Rural Cemetery.

Sons, friends and lovers, sign-up here



In uniform, Brother Jockimo stands in front of the last remaining recruiting rendezvous in New York.

For our November 2018 meeting the Camp changed its venue and had the meeting at the Town Hall in Hartford, NY. The reason for the change was to dedicate a new flag pole at the Hartford Museum and the Howard Hanna Memorial Enlistment Center located on Main Street across the street from the Old Hartford Cemetery.

After completing the regular scheduled meeting the Camp Brothers went to the museum for the dedication of a new flag pole. The pole was a gift from the Willard Camp, and it was erected in front of the last remaining Civil War era enlistment center in New York State. This location was where a large number of the members of Company E, 123rd New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment joined the boys in blue. The unit served throughout the war starting with Fredericksburg under Burnside, then Chancellorsville, the Battle of Gettysburg and they were on hand when Confederate General Johnston and his army surrendered at Bennett's House in Durham, NC.

The unit was mustered out of service on June 8, 1865.



Brother Swano raises the flag for the first time on the new flag pole while Brother Kings tries to hold off the torrent of rain.

They had lost 6 officers and 66 enlisted men killed in action or mortally wounded and 95 enlisted men to disease for a total of 167 casualties.

The Camp was joined by a number of local residents including the Town Supervisor and the Town Historian. Camp Commander Richard Straight conducted the ceremony. He was assisted by David Dziewulski PCC who acted as Chaplin, Vince Jockimo who was the bugler and James King and Francis Swano who raised the flag on the new flag pole. At the base of the flag pole is a plaque stating that it was a gift of the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154. The plaque was donated by a local monument dealer. The entire dedication was held in a rainstorm.

The museum has a nice collection of Civil War artifacts and presents the history of the 123rd Regiment New York Voluntary Infantry. It is a credit to the local community that these historic buildings, which are on the Nation Register of Historic Places, still exist. Small local museums like this are helping the SUCW to "keep green the memory" of the Grand Army of the Republic and remember what its members did to preserve the Union and to end slavery in this country.



Brothers Maggs, Dziewulski PCC and Commander Straight look on as Brother Jockimo plays "To the Colors," the on camp's new bugle.



Credit where credit is due, plaque at the base of the new flag pole. This marker was donated by a local monument dealer.

Thomas Pen Project



Thomas prototype pens by Rich Phaneuf. (Figure 1)

David M. Dziewulski PCC

The Camp continues its efforts to support the maintenance of the Kellogg Family plot and the General George Thomas monument. In the past, fundraising has been done by selling cachets with a special cancellation, a ribbon commemorating the 145th anniversary of Gen. Thomas' death, a challenge coin commemorating the birth of Gen. Thomas, and GAR Sesquicentennial pins. Our earliest effort was simple and relatively inexpensive: Camp members gathered to clean the monument and all the headstones in the plot. The fundraisers were attempted to raise a bit more money. They have resulted in the purchase of the signs directing visitors at Oakwood Cemetery to the gravesite along with a sign noting the location of site. We also helped partially pay for the removal of the silver beech tree that continuously rained branches down on the Kellogg plot which result in damage to the iron fence surrounding the plot.

As part of the on-going maintenance of the plot Brothers have returned to re-clean the monument, mow the grass and pick up debris that had been falling from the trees. Branches from the beech tree were collected for possible use in special projects. One example was the wood planchets added to the commemorative ribbons in 2015. During the holiday season of 2017 Brother Dziewulski, PCC met a vendor, Rich Phaneuf, on the concourse of the Empire State Plaza. Rich owns a company called "Peneuf" and he sells a variety of pens crafted from wood. The subject of the branches from the Kellogg plot came up and shortly afterwards an agreement

was made that if the branches were big enough he would craft two prototype pens at no cost. By February the two pens were completed as shown in Figure 1. One pen was a standard slimline and the other was a Civil War-themed pen. The top of the themed pen had a replica Springfield mini-ball while the writing tip was made of a replica Colt minie ball. The pen's clip was a Springfield musket (Figure 2). The prototypes met with Camp approval and Brother Dziewulski attempted to get a more appropriately sized wood sample for the project. The focus of the fundraising would be to contribute to the cost of replacing the fence for the Kellogg Plot. In the Summer, 2017 edition of the Guidon the Camp reported the removal of the beech tree (August) making wood samples available for crafting wooden pens for a fundraiser. Michael Barrett of the Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway generously gave the Camp a piece of the Thomas tree from his treasure trove of precious wood that was perfect for the task at hand. The decision was made to make a limited number of pens: The result was 10 slim line and 8 Civil War pens that would sell for \$35 and \$45 respectively. Rich Phaneuf generously donated all of his time for the project and the cost of the hardware for the pens, called kits, were donated by a Willard Camp member.

The pens debuted during the 17th "Annual Evening at the Earl" held on October 4, 2018. The response to the pens at this gala was generous and fantastic. Only three slim lines were left after the Willard Camp meeting on October 6. Two of those were quickly reserved by Camp members. Once the remaining slim line is sold there is only one last chance to get a pen: The two original prototypes have been reserved for disposition via auction at a time and place to be determined. Not counting any potential funds from the planned auction, about \$800 has been raised through sales and donations of the pens.



The top of the themed pen had a replica Springfield mini-ball. (Figure 2)

Interesting Scientific Study



Above and below: The reality of prison life for Civil War soldiers and sailors.

A recent NBC news article by Kate Baggaley called "Civil War POW study finds a father's stress can alter a son's genetics," shows the deprivations of war do not just effect those who served. Dora Casta, the lead author of the paper that was published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, states the study of the offspring of Union soldiers adds to a growing body of evidence that suggests that traumatic events experienced by one generation can have profound effect on the next. During the study researchers combed through the records of nearly 20,000 children of Union soldiers from the Civil War. The striking pattern that emerged was that sons of POWs who suffered deprivations during captivity and who lived to at least the age of 45, had a 9 percent higher probability of dying in any given year. Researchers found that most of the early deaths were caused by stroke and cancer.

Scientists have found it is not the ordeals like starvation that changed the POW's genomes (sum total of a person's DNA). Rather, it's that the traumatic event triggered chemical changes in certain compounds attached to DNA, which collectively are known as the epigenome. The epigenome doesn't change the sequence of DNA but changes how the information is used. Some scientists think some of these changes could be passed on to the next generation. If you go to www.nbcnews.com you may read the complete article.



"Keeping Green The Memory"

Col. George L. Willard Camp # 154

Camp Officers

- Camp Commander Richard Straight
- Senior Vice Commander John Swartwout
- Junior Vice Commander Vince Jockimo
- Secretary Temp. Camp Council
- Treasurer Temp. Camp Council
- Camp Council. David Dziewulski
- Camp Council. Robert Keough
- Camp Council. Leo McGuire
- Chaplain George Malinoski
- Patriotic Instructor Paul Cooney
- Guide Tim Mabee
- Guard. Paul Cooney
- Color Bearer Francis Rogler
- Graves Registration James King
- Eagle Scout Coordinator. Brian Castler
- Memorials Officer. David Dziewulski

Coming Events

- Jan. 5 Camp Meeting (installation of officers)
- Feb. 2 Camp Meeting
- March 2 Camp Meeting
- April 6 Camp Meeting
- May 4 Camp Meeting
- May 17-19 Department Encampment
- May 30 Memorial Day
- June 1 Camp Meeting

The Guidon is the official newsletter of the Col. George L. Willard Camp #154, SUVCW. It is published four times a year. The editor may be reached at: rpkeough@aol.com.

Brothers Visit These Sites:

- Col. George L. Willard Camp #154
- <http://www.gwillard154.org/>
- SUVCW Department of NY
- <http://suvchw.org/ny/deptny.htm>
- SUVCW National Headquarters
- <http://www.suvchw.org/>