

# 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](http://www.GLWILARD154.org)

SUMMER 2018

## Willard Camp's Summer Events



*Iron Jacks* members from the US Naval Landing Party (l. to r) Bob DeLisle, Brothers DJ, David and Joe Dziejewski, and Dan Walls.

### Schuyler Flatts:

A Time Line of World History event at Schuyler Flatts Cultural Park in Menands, NY was held on August 18 and 19. The historical time line included groups from the Viking era up to World War II. There were Romans, Pilgrims, French and Indian War reenactors, Native Americans and World War I and II groups participating in the event. A number of Willard Camp Brothers were on hand representing the Camp and singing with the Iron Jacks, a Civil War naval musical group.

The weekend is sponsored by Watervliet Historical Society and the Historical Society of the Town of Colonie and is free to the public. Many locals were on hand for the event.



A group of Renaissance reenactors at Schuyler Flatts Cultural Park in Menands, NY.



Brother Jerry Orton PDC with Michelle Colburn, National President, Woman's Relief Corps.

### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Wilton:

The first Battle of Wilton took place on February 17, 1693. A force of 600-700 French and Algonquin Indians engaged about 250 Colonial-British Troops and 290 Mohawk Indians under the command of Peter Schuyler.

Three hundred twenty-five years later, The Second Battle of Wilton took place on August 11 and 12, 2018 on a weekend organized by Grant Cottage as part of the Bicentennial Celebration of the Town of Wilton. The battle took place on the grounds of D.A. Collins Company (the former Wilton Developmental Center) on Ballard Road. Some of participants were: 10th Louisiana Co, C; 118th NY Vols; 150<sup>th</sup> NY Vols; 2nd Vermont Vol. Cavalry; Civil War Medical Coalition; U.S. Naval Landing Party (US-NLP) and Grays and Blues of Montreal. There were also groups offering tin types, historical displays, period church services, a Civil War fashion show and book signings.

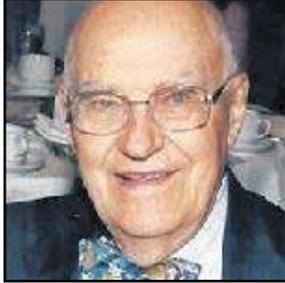
Musical groups such as 77th NY Regimental Balladeers and The Veterans in the New Field had performances during the two-day event. The Iron Jacks, which includes several Brothers from Willard Camp, performed during opening ceremonies and from the USNLP camp throughout the weekend.

# In Memoriam

*In Memoriam*

*Harry G. Taylor*  
*Member Legion of Merit*

*1922 - June 30, 2018*



# SUVCW Support Scouting

THE FOLLOW SCOUTS HAVE RECEIVED THE  
 SUVCW'S EAGLE SCOUT CERTIFICATE FROM  
 THE COL. GEORGE L. WILLARD CAMP.

NAME:	TROOP:	DATE:
BRANDON ASCHAUER	4013	01/02/2018
COLT LATHROP	6061	01/02/2018
TYLER LATROP	6061	01/02/2018
DANIEL MATTISON	4070	01/02/2018
RALPH ROSSI	6061	02/06/2018
RYAN WINKELMAN	6002	02/06/2018
JONATHAN MARCHELLO	6013	02/06/2018
JOSEF LAURER	4016	02/06/2018
ROBERT RILEY	6027	03/06-2018
WILLIAM BELLOWS	4002	03/06/2018
MATTHEW BURROWS	6013	03/06/2018
PATRICK DEE	6004	04/03/2018
JARRETT SLADE	6044	04/03/2018
CHARLE E. GUENTHER	8039	01/18/2018
SAWYER ALLEN	4003	05/01/2018
NICHOLAS FULLER	6004	05/01/2018
COLIN McDONOUGH	4002	06/05/2018
EVAN PISCITELLI	4001	06/05/2018
CONNOR ASHLINE	4016	07/10/2018
SCOTT JONES	6002	07/10/2018
MATTHEW SLOVAK	2114	05/29/2018
KARL BURKERT	4001	07/24/2018
AUSTIN MANDIGO	6040	07/24/2018
RYAN BROOKS	6022	07/24/2018
KADON LANE	4013	08/09/2018
BRIAN BEYERBACH	6004	08/09/2018
JOHN P. WALSH	237	06/28/1971
STEPHEN TROMBETTA		04/04/2018
MAXIMUS TETU	4016	09/04/2018
COLE PETERSON	4018	09/04/2018
RAYMOND JONES	6002	09/04/2018
DYLAN BAKER	6030	10/05/2018
CORDELL SMITH	6061	10/05/2018

## Frederick Douglass' Grave



Photo by: Leo McGuire

SUVCW Brothers visit Frederick Douglass's grave site located just off Mt. Hope Blvd. in Rochester, NY.

Department of Wisconsin's Commander Brian McManus and Brothers from the Abraham Lincoln Camp # 6 visited Frederick Douglass's grave at Mt. Hope Cemetery, in Rochester, NY. Frederick Douglass was a slave, orator, equal rights advocate, publisher of *The North Star* newspaper, supporter of women's suffrage, writer and statesman. The Mt. Hope Cemetery was founded in 1838, and is the first municipal rural cemetery in the United States. The cemetery hosts the sculpture *Defenders of the Flag*, (see it in the Fall 2014 Guidon) a Civil War monument created in 1908 by the American sculptor Sally James Farnham and it is also the final resting place of Susan B. Anthony a social reformer and women's rights advocate. There are nice tours of the cemetery on the weekends.

## CONGRATULATIONS



## Ignorance or Racism?



Painting of General N. B. Forrest, murderer and racist, by Don Stivers hangs in the Washington DC office of a top Veteran Administration official.

Nathan Bedford Forrest, was a Confederate general and slave trader who became the first Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan in 1868. Even worse, he was the commander of Confederate troops who massacred over 300 Union soldiers, most of them black, who surrendered after the 1864 Battle of Fort Pillow in Tennessee.

Why is a painting of Forrest, called "No Surrender," hanging in the office of a top Veteran Administration official? It is either an act of ignorance or racism on the part of David J. Thomas Sr., the deputy executive director of VA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, which certifies veteran-owned businesses seeking government contracts. Most of Thomas' senior staff are African American. "You don't hire someone who puts a picture of a Klansman in his office unless you're racially insensitive," said the lawyer, John Rigby.

The painter, Don Stivers, is a competent artist using a very realistic style in his work. Looking at his website anyone would have a wide range of images to choose from. The art includes paintings like "No Surrender" as well as images from WW II and the current Afghan War. Maybe Thomas should have picked one of Stivers' more recent war paintings of real American veterans and not one of a man who would rather destroy the government of the United States.

In this case the old saying "those who do not know history are doomed to repeat it," is so true. Just to display a picture to fill a space and not know what it symbolizes is a sign of real ignorance. On the other hand, was the person was sending a message to his African-American employees? It is time to understand how our acts affect others. As members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War we need to be aware of our history and make sure it is not distorted or forgotten.

Read more at: <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/content/fort-pillow-massacre-1864>.

## Where Things Come From

It is always nice to know where traditions come from, here is what Peter Hess has to say about the tradition of watching the ball drop at midnight on New Year's Eve. Following his election as President in 1860, Abraham Lincoln undertook a train ride to Washington that would take him through Albany. He arrived here on February 18, 1861 with his wife and three sons. As their train passed the West Albany railroad shops, an electrical switch was turned off at the nearby Dudley Observatory, causing an electromagnet mounted on the roof of the Capitol in downtown Albany to release a metal ball that slid down a pole, signaling to military officials to start a 21-gun salute in Capitol Park.

Albany's Congressman Erastus Corning, the founder and first president of the New York Central Railroad, had been instrumental in donating a high quality telescope and time-keeping system at the new Dudley Observatory. Each morning a worker started up a dynamo (generator) at the observatory and at exactly 12 noon he turned on an electrical switch that was connected by a wire to an electromagnet on top of a pole mounted on the roof of the Capitol. The energized electromagnet pulled up the metal ball. Every night at exactly midnight, the worker turned off the switch which caused the ball to drop. One of these "Time Balls" controlled by the Dudley Observatory had also been mounted on the train station in New York City. It was important to the railroads that New York City and Albany were on exactly the same time so that trains could run accurately.

Since few people at that time had watches and the pocket watches that existed usually showed a variety of times, it became traditional in both New York and Albany for partiers to go downtown on New Year's Eve "to watch the ball drop." On this day the ball was being used to signal the President's arrival.

Here is a bit of trivia you can pass on. I had never heard this story before.



New Year's eve ball drops at midnight in Time Square, New York City.

# Decline of CW Reenactors

New York Times, July 28, 2018, states Civil War reenacting is on a decline. This is the opinion of Times' reporter Bryn Stole. Stole reports that this year, 2018, saw some 6,000 reenactors as opposed to 30,000 just twenty years ago. In the 1990's hey-day of reenacting there was a fascination with the Civil War. This was spurred on by film like "Glory" and "Gettysburg," James McPherson's book "The Battle Cry of Freedom" and Ken Burn's documentary "Civil War" that was watched by over 138 million viewers.

In the article a great deal of time is spent describing what Civil War reenactors do and the different types of reenactors. Often represented is the camp life including cooking, battlefield action and late night relaxing around the fire with friends and family. In one case he talks about one reenactor's need for camaraderie. Stole reports that things are changing with young people more interested in video games plus the cost of reenacting gear was noted to be quite high. These may not be the real reasons though. He quotes Thomas Downes as saying, "Up until the last five or ten years, the social causes of the war did not come into what we do." Now with the effects of Charlottesville, VA, the Confederate Battle Flags and removal of Confederate monuments from state grounds, a new reality is has arrived.

I enjoyed reading this article and found it interesting but some of it was the "same-old-stuff." We, as Brothers in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, know about problems of "aging out" and finding young people interested in the past. The one point I found very interesting was a veteran who found camaraderie, because reenacting has helped me with my PTSD. I have copies of this article if you would like to read it. Brother Keough Guidon Editor.



Brother David Dziewulski, PCC cooking for the U. S. Naval Landing Party at a re-enactment in Saratoga Springs, NY.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



"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 . . . . . Leo McGuire  
 Treasurer . . . . . Robert Keough  
 Camp Council. . . . . David Dziewulski  
 Camp Council. . . . . Robert Keough  
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 Guide . . . . . Tim Mabee  
 Guard. . . . . Paul Cooney  
 Color Bearer . . . . . Francis Rogler  
 Graves Registration . . . . . James King  
 Eagle Scout Coordinator. . . . . Brian Castler  
 Guidon Editor. . . . . Robert Keough

## Coming Events

July	7	Camp Meeting
July	22	Grant Cottage
August	22	Grant at Wilton, NY
August	8	Schuyler Flatts
Sept	8	Camp Meeting
Oct.	5	President Arthur Birthday
Oct.	6	Camp Meeting
Nov.	3	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](mailto: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/>