

The Guidon

P.O. Box 13681 - Albany, NY 12212-3681 - IN OUR 114TH YEAR - www.GLWILLARD154.ORG

Fall 2013

Showing the Camp's Colors:



On July 21 Brothers from the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War were invited to be the Color Guard for Grant Cottage Remembrance Day. Brother Robert H. Walter, in an 1860's period uniform of a Naval Midshipman, commanded the Brothers as they carried out their solemn duties. The event, which takes place each year on the weekend closest to Grant's death on July 23, 1885, commemorates the passing of General Ulysses S. Grant at the site.

Reenactors portraying the Grant family, in mourning attire, created a very realistic tableau that captivated the fifty plus visitor in attendance. The General's eldest son, Col. Frederick Grant, shared rarely heard stories of his father.

Grant's Cottage is at 1000 Mt. McGregor Rd., Wilton, NY 12831 and you may visit their web site at: www.grantcottage.org for more information and other programs. Their phone is 518-584-4353.

Brothers at the event, included in the above photograph, taken on the front steps, are DJ Dziejulski with American Flag, Dave Dziejulski PCC with Camp Flag, center Robert Walter, top row left Robert Keough CC and Jerry Orton PDC on the right.



Less than a month before his death General Grant sits on the porch of his cottage at Mt. McGregor finishing the second volume of "Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant."



Grant's son speaks emotionally about his father to event visitors from the porch where the General died on July 23, 1885.

Knickerbocker Mansion:



Brick by brick the Knickerbocker Mansion is being restored to its 1860's look from the earliest known photograph of the building.

There is an old saying that "One hand washes the other." In this case, on July 20th, the U.S. Naval Landing Party's singing group *The Iron Jacks* came to the Knickerbocker Mansion to repay a kindness. The Mansion is located in Schaghticoke, NY off Route 67 on Knickerbocker Road. All of the members of the *Iron Jacks* who attended the event are also Brothers of the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Joe Ferrannini, who is a member of the Knickerbocker Historical Society, has been very helpful in the Camp's General Thomas Grave Site - Kellogg Family Plot project. The Brothers wanted to give his Summer Festival, which includes a Civil War encampment, a helping hand. The *Iron Jacks* spent the good part of the day entertaining the visitors to the event with Civil War era music. Ms. Toni Lasher joined the group which included Brothers Dave Dziewulski PCC, DJ Dziewulski, Robert Walter and Robert Keough CC.

The mansion, constructed in 1780, has been under restoration since 1988 when there were threats of demolishing it. Work has included restoration of the roof, the conversion of the dormers to a shed style, the restoration of the eaves and gutters, the installation of new windows and the re-facing of the brick and stone work. You may want to visit their web site at www.knickmansion.com and check out the many events held there.



Brothers Dave Dziewulski PCC, DJ Dziewulski and Robert Walter, as the *Iron Jacks*, along with Toni Lasher sing for their supper (actually lunch).

Thomas clean-up:

You never know the impact of the timing of a simple clean-up task can have on other people. A few Brothers gathered July 9th at Oakwood Cemetery in Troy to work on the General Thomas - Kellogg Family Plot project. Much has been done there to upgrade the site, with a great deal more to do. Beyond the major work needed, there is always the cutting, clipping and raking to make the site a real show place. Just after the Brothers finished their clean up a late afternoon cemetery tour arrived, at the well trimmed site, to hear about General George Thomas.



Brother John Hilton cut around other family stones in the Kellogg Plot.



Brothers Dave Dziewulski PCC, Robert Walter and John Hilton after clean-up.



A late afternoon cemetery tour gathers to hear about General Thomas' grave site.

Sons at Schuyler Flatts:

Schuyler Flatts Cultural Park is located at 595 Broadway just south of the city of Watervliet, NY. Each year Civil War Heritage Days at Schuyler Flatts is held there. The event included over 100 Civil War reenactors, musket and cannon firing demonstrations, unit drills, period music and lectures. This year's event, on August 17th and 18th, was the 8th annual. As recruiting is very important to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War a number of Camp Brothers were on hand to talk with visitors about the Camp and membership. Brothers at the event included Ray LeMay III PCC, Leo McGuire, Richard Straight also with the 125th NYVI, Paul Cooney and Robert Keough CC.



Event visitors stop and talk with Brother Raymond LeMay III about membership

Florence, MA:



While reenacting at an event in Florence, MA Brother Dave Dziewulski ran into a fellow Son who was portraying General A. J. Pleasonton.

Program of Interest:

Between now and May of 2014 there will be a special **1863: Loyal till Death: A Civil War Tour** at the New York State Capitol every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The tour will begin at the State Street Lobby of the Capitol and will explore the importance and symbolism of regimental flags on display there. The flags are from the New York State Battle Flag Collection, administered by the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs New York. After years of being poorly stored each flag was conserved by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in partnership with the Military Museum. If you are interested, register for a tour on-line at www.ogs.ny.gov or call 518-473-7582.



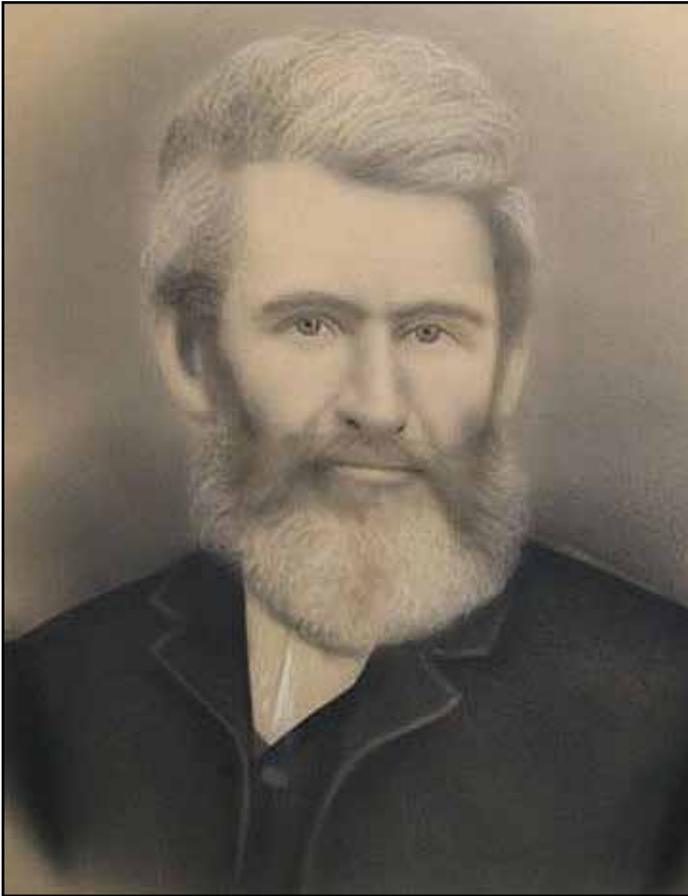
The flag of the 13th N.Y. Independent Battery which is included in the exhibit and from which the tour take's its name.

Museum in need of Help gets Help:



After conducting research the Byron Museum realized the missing eagle at the top of the Byron, IL Soldier's Monument (erected in 1866) was of the same design as the eagle on General Thomas' grave site. They ask the Willard Camp for help. A number of detailed photographs were taken of the eagle with rulers included for scale and sent to the museum. The images will be used to recreate the eagle which had been destroyed by weather twice, the last time was in 1918. The Camp has received thanks from Dan Wykes, Director of the Byron Museum of History and will be given credit when the new eagle goes on display at the museum.

Charles Franklin Babcock
1835 - 1915



Charles Franklin Babcock was one of Franklin Babcock's four sons who fought for the Union in the Civil War. Franklin himself was also a Civil War veteran. He was born in 1835 in Bradford County, Pennsylvania. Charles enlisted on April 23, 1861 in Company K of what would first be called the 6th Pennsylvania Reserve Regiment and later became the 35th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry also know as the "Susquehanna Volunteers." He served in and around Washington, DC where his company only saw action once. On May 30, 1862 he was discharged on a Surgeon's Certificate. This did not end his military service because on March 29, 1864 he re-enlisted into the 2nd Pennsylvania Veteran Heavy Artillery (112 Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers), Battery A and later transferred to Battery B (date unknown). He arrived in Washington just in time to leave with the regiment as infantry. On May 27th after a review by the President the regiment left Washington, DC. The unit was involved in the Battle of Cold Harbor, the Bermuda Hundred front, Chaffin's Farm, New Market Heights, and the Siege of Petersburg including being at the "Crater." During this time the regiment was part of the 2nd Division, 18th Corps, Army of the James under Brigadier General, Brevet Major General John H. Martindale. Charles was mustered out with his battery, January 29, 1866 at City Point, Virginia. He died December 15, 1915 and is buried in the East Herrick Cemetery, Bradford County, PA with his wife Mary. His grave is marked with a stone stating he was a member Co K, 6th PA Res. and a GAR flag holder (information taken from SUVCW on-line records). Charles Babcock was the great-great grandfather of Brother Robert P. Keough of Long Lake, NY and the great-great-great-great grandfather of Brother Robert H. Walter of Rochester, NY.

As editor of "The Guidon" I would like to tell more stories like this one, if you have a story let me know.

Col. George L. Willard Camp # 154 Events coming up for 2013

Month	Date	Event / Location
October	5	Camp meeting St. Agnes 10:00 a.m. Nominations of officers
November	2	Camp meeting St. Agnes 10:00 a.m. Voting on officers
December	7	Camp meeting St. Agnes 10:00 a.m. Instillation of officers
	8	Troy Victorian Stroll 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
	14	Wreaths Across America Saratoga National Cemetery

Brothers Use The Web and Visit These Sites:

Col. George L Willard Camp #154
<http://www.glwillard154.org/>
 SUVCW Department of NY
<http://suvcw.org/ny/deptny.htm>

NYS Civil War Sesquicentennial
<http://www.nycivilwar150.org/>
 Saratoga Civil War Encampment
http://saratogacivilwarencampment.org/Home_Page.html