

The Guidon

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

Spring 2013

Remembering Our Jewish Brothers:

It is not exactly known how many Jewish-Americans served on both sides during the American Civil War but it is estimated at about 10,000. In 1895, Simon Wolf (1836-1923), in response to rising anti-Semitism in the United States and Europe, and particularly to the 1894 Dreyfus case (France), wished to refute aspersions on the patriotism of Jewish-Americans. He created a booklet entitled "The American Jew as Patriot, Soldier and Citizen" which is indexed by state and includes members of both Union and Confederate armies. His list was compiled in 1895, 30 years after the war ended, at a time when there were no telephones or mass communication other than newspapers. Therefore many Jewish veterans may have been unaware of Simon Wolf's efforts. Many veterans had passed away during those 30 years and many returned to Europe. Independent research has come up with about 100 names not in Simon Wolf's original list. You may read more about and use, this database by going to: <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/USA/civilwar.htm>.

During the Civil War, 1,520 Medals of Honor were awarded. It is believed that seven Jewish-Union soldiers earned the Medal of Honor during the war. They include: Sergeant Major Abraham Cohn, Corporal Isaac Gause, Private Abraham Greenawalt, Sergeant Leopold Karpeles, Private Benjamin Levy and Private David Orbansky. Their are cited for "Gallantry in Action to the Capture of Enemy's Colors." Benjamin Levy, a drummer boy, took up the gun of a sick comrade and went into the fight, and when the color bearers were shot down he carried the colors and saved them from capture. Sergeant Henry Heller

also earned the Medal of Honor.

The story of the first Jewish Man of the Cloth in the US Army is an interesting one. In July of 1861 Congressman Clement Vallandigham's bill to allow ordained rabbis to be commissioned as chaplains in the Army was defeated. This despite the 5th Pennsylvania Cavalry regiment, made up of both Christian and Jewish soldiers, having already elected Michael Allen, a Philadelphia Hebrew teacher, their chaplain. He was replaced by Rabbi Arnold Fischel but this was still unofficial and in violation of the law. Finally on July 17th 1862 Congress changed the wording of the law to include the words "religious denomination" instead of "Christian denomination," and legal discrimination against Jews in this manor ended in the military. On September 18, 1862 Rabbi Jacob Frankel became the first official Jewish chaplain.

These Jewish-American veterans were proud member of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.). When they were confronted with increased anti-Semitism at the time of the Spanish-American War it was their brothers in the G.A.R. who helped them create their

Continued on page 2



Jewish War Veterans Delegate's Medal for the 45th National Encampment in Boston, MA in 1940.

own organization: Hebrew Union Veterans which became the Jewish War Veterans of the United States. Observing Memorial Day is still very important to the Jewish War Veterans as it was to the G.A.R. and is to The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. There will be a PDF file on our web-site that you may download called JWV_timeline_2009 which is the history of Jewish War Veterans from 1896 to 2009. It is very interesting reading.

If you want to read more about Jewish-American in the Civil War find a copy of: "American Jewry and the Civil War" (1951) by Bertram W. Korn.

Charles Stein, CW Doctor:

By Mike Rugel, Assistant Collections Manager/NMAJMH

On the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War, it's a good time to look at Jewish contributors. One was Charles Stein, M.D., a German immigrant who served with New York 58th Infantry Regiment (known as the Polish Legion). To become a surgeon for a New York regiment, Stein had to undergo a test of the examining board of the New York State legislature regarding his knowledge of anatomy, surgery, and the principles of medicine. He passed on August 14, 1861, and was commissioned Assistant Surgeon on May 21, 1862. In that role, he would have likely set up aid stations near battlefields. He would provide emergency care that would often place him in the line of fire. The amputations that are the common images of Civil War Medicine would have fallen to the Regimental Surgeon usually at a field hospital (with assistant surgeon's support), but the first treatments were from assistant surgeons like Stein. This would include use of his trepanning kit for head injuries. His medical case is inscribed "C. Stein." It contains trephines, scalpels, lenticulars, and a Hey's saw. The tools were used to bore holes in the skull, depress the brain tissue, and then elevate the skull to relieve pressure on the brain. The equipment looks brutal, but it was often lifesaving. Stein had plenty of opportunity to ply his trade. The regiment saw action throughout the war, including the bloody three days of the Battle of Gettysburg. There, Stein was noted for restoring the breathing of his colonel, Włodzimierz Krzyanowski, after his chest was injured when a horse was shot from under him. Colonel Kryzanowski was able to return to lead his men on the battlefield after Stein's treatment. Stein mustered out when his unit was dissolved in Nashville, Tennessee, after the war's end in 1865. In 1866, Stein continued in New York's National Guard as Surgeon of the 11th Regiment.

Brothers Give CW Talks:



Past Camp Commander David Dzewulski presented his talk on Black Jacks, White Sails and Shipmates, at NYS Library.

Brother David Dzewulski, PCC presented his talk on African-American Sailors during the Civil War on February 16, 2013 called, "Black Jacks, White Sails and Shipmates," at the New York State Library in Albany, NY. The presentation included information on the black sailors' numbers, roles, perceptions, attitudes and equality in the integrated Union Navy. Brother Dave also include a brief primer on the antecedent mariner and naval history of African-Americans from the Continental Navy through the Barbary pirate wars, quasi-war with France and the War of 1812. The talk was well received and he will make the same presentation at the Schenectady County Historical Society later this Spring.



Brother Keough, Camp Commander, in the uniform of a Captain of Infantry talks about Matthew Brady's birth place in Weavertown, NY.

On January 27, 2013 Brother Robert Keough, CC made a presentation at the Livingston Arts' New Deal Gallery in Mount Morris, NY. On this cold Sunday afternoon over thirty members of this arts group listened to an illustrated lecture on Civil War Photography 1861 to 1865. Bob talked about the photographic technology of the time and the importance of the work done by these photographers. Our Civil War was not the first war to be photographed but the first time that a war was so thoroughly documented. At the end of the lecture a Q and A period was conducted, with many very interesting questions presented by the audience.

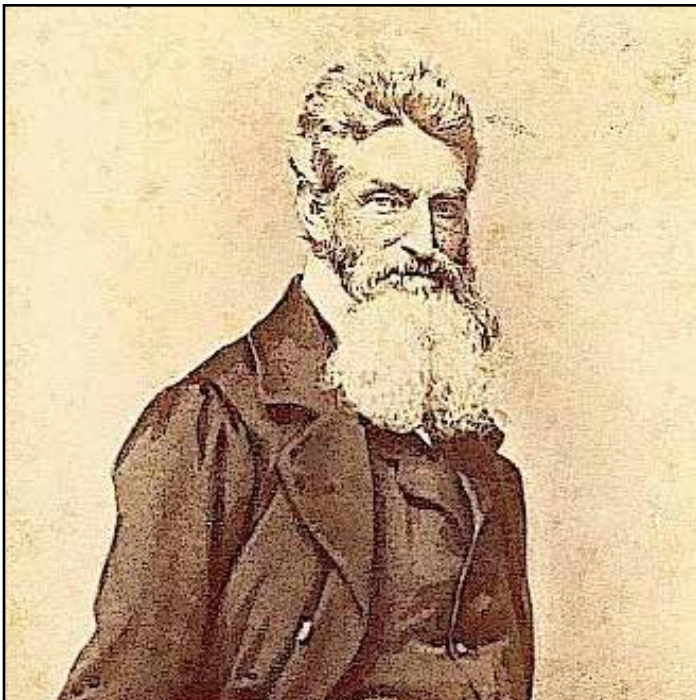
Civil War History in our area:



John Brown's farm, where he was laid to rest in North Elba near Lake Placid, NY. Many New Yorkers know the song "John Brown's Body Lies a-mouldering in the Grave," but where is that grave? It is right here in New York State just two miles east of Lake Placid and one half a mile off route 73 on John Brown Road. To assist the free black settlement in the Adirondacks called "Timbucto," Brown moved his family there in 1849. On the night of October 16, 1859 he and his followers attacked the U.S. Arsenal at Harper's Ferry, VA, in an attempt to incite a slave revolt. Hanged on December 2, 1859, his body was taken back to his farm and laid to rest. His farm is now a State Historic Site and sponsors encampments, reenactments, plays, concerts and lectures.

The historic house and grave site are open for tours May 1 to October 31 on Saturday, Sunday and weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. but closed on Tuesdays.

For more informations go to: www.nysparks.com



Photograph of John Brown in the year of his death 1859, by: Black and Batchelder

In Memory:

In Memory
J. Baxter Swartwout
 April 2, 2013
 Father of
 Brothers John & Frank Swartwout

In Memory
 of
Maria Hull
 April 12, 2013
 A true friend of the Camp

Brother Orton's Team Wins:



At a recent Onondaga County Civil War Round Table Brother Jerry Orton's team won The Abraham Lincoln "I Wish I Had Known That" Award. Each year the Round Table puts on the annual Civil War Jeopardy contest and for the second time Brother Jerry's team has won the award. The award reads as follows:

For extraordinary knowledge of the Civil War and the ability to recall it on a moment's notice. Should you find yourself in a time warp and in Washington, DC during the early 1860's, do present yourself to me at the White House. You could be a valuable advisor to remedy Gen. George B. McClellan's Dept. of Civil War Misinformation.

Congratulation to Brother Orton and his team, keep up the good work.

One Man's Civil War:



Caleb Eldred, in a contemporary photograph, wearing the uniform of the 15th New York Heavy Artillery.

Brother Gary P. Salmon has sent us this wonderful photograph of his Great, Great, Great Uncle Caleb Elderd who was born in Pittstown, NY on March 17, 1845. On his enlistment of papers of October 6, 1863 he listed himself as a sawyer at a sawmill in Pittstown. He was mustered in as a Private in Company L to serve three years.

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

Month	Date	Event / Location
May	3 -4	Dept. of NY Encampment Ithaca, NY
	15	Camp meeting 2:00 p.m. at St. Agnes Cemetery Menands, NY
	30	Memorial Day meet at 2:00 p.m. at St. Agnes Cemetery Menands, NY
July	21	Remembrance Day at Grant Cottage (check Camp web site for time)
September	14 - 15	Saratoga Springs Civil War Encampment

Brothers Use The Web and Visit These Sites:

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

He was transferred to Company F on February 26, 1864 and promoted to Corporal on April 1, 1865 at the Battle of Five Forks, VA. This resounding Union triumph heralded the end of the stalemate outside Petersburg and set the stage for the breakthrough that followed the next day. On April 2, Lee informed Jefferson Davis that Petersburg and Richmond would have to be evacuated. Lee surrendered to Grant only seven days later.

Caleb was mustered out of service with his Company in Washington, DC on August 22, 1865. After the war he lived in Troy and Albany, NY until 1880 when he moved to Topeka, Kansas and worked as a carpenter. Mr. Eldred died on January 27, 1912 and is buried in the Rochester Cemetery, Tobeka, Kansas.

Show us your ancestor:

If you have enjoyed this short history of a family member sent in by Brother Salmon send us yours. We always have room for the memories of our ancestors.

Your Editor,
 Bob Keough

MoU signed:

A Memorandum of Understanding has been composed and agreed upon by the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154, The Troy Cemetery Association, Inc. and The Friends of Oakwood Cemetery. This clears the way for the Camp to raise money for the repair and maintenance of the General Thomas Monument and the Kellogg Plot at the Oakwood Cemetery. More information will follow in our Summer Camp Guidon.

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