

The Guidon

P.O. Box 13681 - Albany, NY 12212-3681 - IN OUR 113TH YEAR - www.GLWILLARD154.ORG

Summer 2012

Week Long Memorial Day Commemorations

Willard Camp was involved with a week long string of Memorial Day activities. Our first major activity occurred during the kickoff of the Memorial Day parade at West End Park in Cohoes, NY. Camp members had the honor of being the color guard for the opening ceremonies on Thursday May 24. Commander Dzielwski laid a wreath at the GAR monument and was the featured speaker. A Cohoes High School senior, Matthew Garipey, recited the Gettysburg Address, Mayor MacDonald presented comments and the ceremony was closed with an invocation. Willard Camp is working with the City in re-dedicating West End Park as "Cohoes Grand Army of the Republic Park."

Our next event was held on Monday May 28 at St. Agnes Cemetery. Ten Brothers from our Camp, along with the faithful volunteers Alysia Hamilton and Cameron Smith, participated in cleaning the headstones of Civil War Veterans. The work was planned with historian Kelley Grimaldi who graciously served us lunch during our break at noontime. We were able to clean more than 50 stones that were marked for rehabilitation. (See photos on page 3)

Finally, the Camp wrapped up our Memorial Day remembrances by performing ceremonies at our traditional locations in the Capital District on May 30. We visited the Civil War Soldiers Lot at Albany Rural Cemetery, the Soldiers and Sailors Lot at Oakwood Cemetery and Colonel George L. Willard's gravesite. Camp members are heartily commended for the excellent level of participation and all of the hard work that was done during this busy week. Huzzah!



Camp Color Guard stands before Veteran's monument at Albany Rural Cemetery, members include George Malinoski, Camp Commander David Dzielwski, William Halpin, John Hilton, John Swarouth Jr., Leo McGuire, Paul Grady, Don Zeilman and Charles Berns.



Commander Dzielwski salutes after laying wreath at the Cohoes's GAR monument with Camp Color Guard in the background.



Color Guard include Commander Dzielwski, George Malinoski, Leo McGuire, Tim Mabee, and Robert Keough in the front row. Brothers Ray LeMay III and Charles Walter are in the back.

129th Department of New York Encampment

The Department of New York held its 129th Annual Encampment at the Hilton Garden Inn in Newburgh, NY from May 18 to May 20. Commander Albanese was re-elected for a third term. Brothers Robert Pugsley and George Weinmann were voted in as Senior Vice and Junior Vice Commanders respectively. Elected and appointed Willard Camp Members include:

Donald Zeilman, Signals Officer (Editor of the *Volunteer*)
Robert Walter, Color Bearer
Jerome Orton, Historian
Ray LeMay III, Department Council, Backup Webmaster
Robert Keough, Guard
DJ Dziewulski, Guide
Dave Dziewulski, Department Council

Congratulations to all!! Please note that Brothers are reminded to visit the Department of NY website for updated news and orders (<http://suvchw.org/ny/deptny.htm>).

Award - Winning Guidon



Willard Camp is pleased to announce that its *Guidon* was selected as newsletter of the year at the 129th Encampment of the Department of New York. We would all like to extend our thanks to Editor Brother Keough for all of his hard work in producing a quality product. A tip of the kepi also goes to the contributors and reviewers who have assisted in the production of the *Guidon*.

Breaking News: General Thomas Gravesite

The Col. G. L. Willard Camp #154, in cooperation with the Department of NY, has adopted the gravesite of General George Thomas. Located in Oakwood Cemetery, the memorial is within the Kellogg family plot. We will be soliciting volunteers for regular work parties. In addition a major cleaning project will be announced. More details will follow in broadcast emails, our upcoming meeting on September 8 and the next issue of the *Guidon*.



Willard Camp members at the 129th Department of New York Encampment. L-to-R: Brothers LeMay, DJ Dziewulski, Leo McGuire, Tim Mabee, Robert Keough, Dave Dziewulski, Robert Walter and Charles Walter.



Brother LeMay receives the Oliver P. Clarke Award for individual recruiting from Brother Michael Bennett. This is the fifth year in a row Ray has received this award.



Part of the Encampment was a tour of West Point on Sunday morning. Many of the Brothers took advantage of the tour including members of G.L. Willard Camp 154.

Camp Brothers clean grave stones at St. Agnes Cemetery



Brothers Tim Mabee, Charles Walter, Chuck Berns, George Malinoski, John Hilton, Leo McGuire and Paul Cooney relax over lunch during the stone cleaning at St. Agnes Cemetery. Camp Commander David Dzewulski was also present.



A before and after photograph of a Civil War veteran's stone cleaned by the Camp members at St. Agnes Cemetery on May 28th. Over 50 stones were cleaned in this manner during the day's activities. See Spring 2012's *Guidon* (page 4) for details of the process used.

Troy Civil War Days

The Camp participated in the Annual Troy Civil War Days held at the Masonic Lodge on Route 2 in Troy. Brothers manned a fly with display material and literature on Saturday June 2. Brothers who were also members USNLP returned for the brief Sunday activities. Since we took the field with the USNLP the Willard Camp was able to earn a nice stipend. In addition, Ms. Gina Shahinian of the New York State Museum (Public Programs) discussed upcoming Civil War programs at the Museum that would involve Willard Camp, US Naval Landing Party and performances by the *Iron Jacks*. Details need to be worked out but the two programs currently planned are: [1] A children's program during Thanksgiving weekend called 'Civil War Saturday' (11/24) that would involve a performance by the Iron Jacks; [2] a program entitled 'Great Places and Spaces' which would involve a combined effort of Willard Camp, the US Naval Landing Party and the *Iron Jacks* on January 12, 2013. Details will follow.

WAR !!!! Learn the news 1860s style-- including misinformation, assumptions, suppositions, and downright fabrications! A newspaper database project of the USNLP has been growing week by week, and will not be fully completed until April 2015; you'll have to wait for updates, just like people did during the war. Go to <http://www.usnlp.org/papers/index.html>

SARATOGA CIVIL WAR ENCAMPMENT



Being a
**150th Anniversary
Commemoration**
of the
USS Monitor
and the
Hudson River Valley,
and the
1862 Land Battles of
2nd Bull Run & Antietam
at
Congress Park
Saratoga Springs, NY

SAVE THE DATE!

**Friday, Saturday and Sunday
September 21st, 22nd & 23rd, 2012**

Watch for developments at
http://saratogacivilwarencampment.org/Home_Page.html
<http://www.gwillard154.org>

with assistance from:
U.S. Naval Landing Party
Col. George L. Willard Camp 154 †

Varmints Steal Flags

By David M. Dziewulski, CC

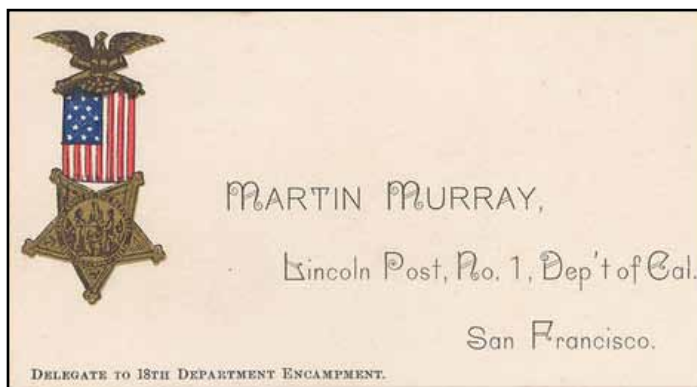
Brother Vincent Wallace (Willard Camp #154) works at Cedar Park Cemetery in Hudson, NY. One activity that he annually performs just before the 4th of July is the placement of flags for the more than 40 headstones in the Grand Army of the Republic section of the cemetery. On July 2, Brother Vincent found that over 30 of the flags had been removed; what was worse was that they weren't simply removed or stolen but completely or partially torn from their staffs and some of the shafts were broken.

The response for replacement flags was swift and somewhat overwhelming. The local Fraternal Order of Elks were the very first to respond by replacing each of the flags. The Mayor, his aide and the local police became involved and the general sentiment was disdain for vandals that would destroy and steal the National Colors from the graves of our Civil War dead. Increased patrols were promised and implemented but it was clearly noted that the Cemetery is quite large and without lighting at night, is pitch black and mischief would be difficult to detect.

No sooner were the flags replaced when the new flags were again vandalized. Police installed monitoring cameras to see if they could catch the individuals in the act of destroying or removing the flags. The perpetrators were caught in the act! The "varmint" involved were the resident woodchucks.

Video cameras revealed the woodchucks' den lined and made cozy with US flags. From the various stories and reports, it appears that the flags are treated with a chemical that attracts the woodchucks and similar events have been reported elsewhere. This story received national coverage after the Associated Press picked up the news item from the Hudson Star newspaper. Brother Wallace said that new flag holders have been ordered. These new holders will put the flags out of the reach of the woodchucks. It was a relief to all concerned that the "varmint" were not of the human variety!

[Compiled from news stories appearing in the *Hudson Star* (Hudson, NY), discussions with Brother Vincent and reports by WTEN television.]



The calling card of GAR member Martin Murray a delegate to the 18th Department of California Encampment.

Col. George L. Willard Camp # 154 Events coming up for 2012

| Month | Date | Event / Location |
|--------------|---------|--|
| August | 4 - 5 | Windham Music Gathering (<i>Iron Jacks</i> perform); various activities all weekend. |
| September | 8 | Camp Meeting at St. Agnes Cemetery at 10 AM– Immediately after a shortened meeting (11:15 - 11:30AM AM) we will be assisting Tent 107 in the commemoration of Sgt. Grimes at St. Agnes Cemetery by participating as a color guard. |
| | 23 - 24 | Maximum Camp Event at Saratoga Springs Congress Park – see ad in this issue. |
| October | 6 - 7 | Old Stone Fort History Fair (<i>Iron Jacks</i> perform) |
| November | 24 | 'Civil War Saturday' at the New York State Museum (<i>Iron Jacks</i> perform) |
| January 2013 | 12 | 'Great Places and Spaces' at the New York State Museum, combined effort of Willard Camp, US Naval Landing Party and the <i>Iron Jacks</i> . |

Brothers Use The Web and Visit These Sites:

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

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