

# The Guidon

P.O. Box 13681 - Albany, NY 12212-3681 - IN OUR 114TH YEAR - [www.GLWILLARD154.ORG](http://www.GLWILLARD154.ORG)

Summer 2013

## Memorial Day 2013:

What can one say, as they stand surrounded by the graves of so many who, at the time of need, stood with their brothers for the cause of Right. Not all these men fell in combat, some lived to a very old age but they all shared in the Great Victory Over Evil. These are not the graves of our relatives who are buried far and wide but we come to honor them by honoring these veterans on this beautiful day in May.

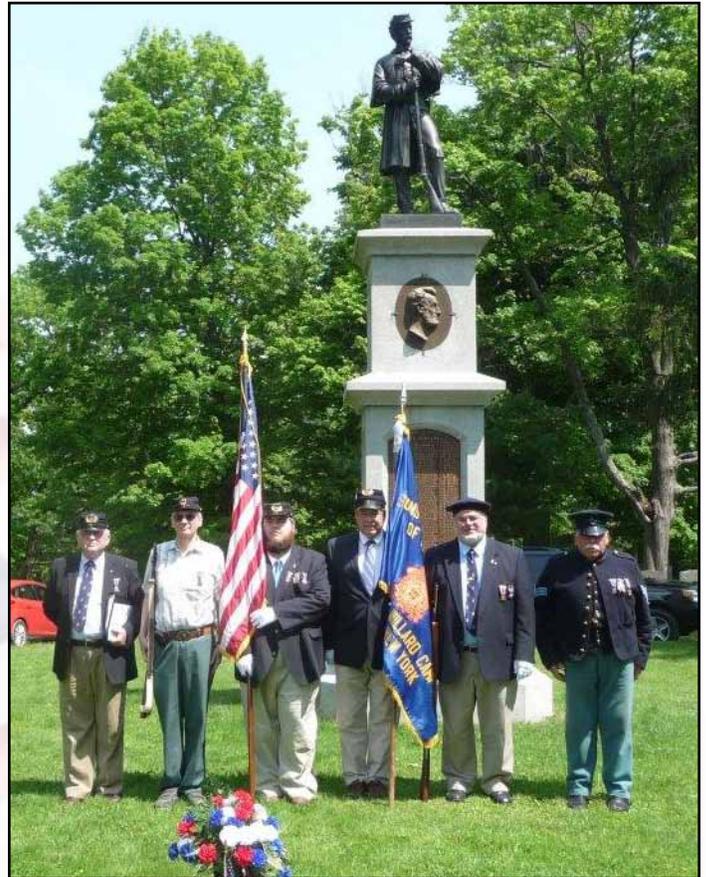
The Brothers of the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154 took time out on a weekday to visit their departed Brothers in the Albany, NY area. They started at Albany Rural Cemetery and conducted the SUVCW Memorial Day ceremony and placed flowers at the graves in the Soldiers' plot. They then moved on to repeat the SUVCW ceremony and placing of flowers at the Soldiers and Sailors plot in Oakwood Cemetery in Troy. Then three short ceremonies were conducted in the same cemetery at the graves of Major General George Henry Thomas, the "Rock of Chickamauga," Col. George L. Willard the namesake of our Camp and George Geer a member of the crew of the *USS Monitor*. Each of these three ceremonies included the reading of Theodore O'Hare's "Bivouac of the Dead," by Brother Richard Straight.

The air was light, the sun was hot and the moment somber as we stood at attention but a sense of connection existed, a bond, a feeling of Brotherhood. It is for us a duty to remember those who saved a nation and preserved the Union.

Robert P. Keough, Willard Camp Commander



View of Soldiers & Sailors' Plot at Oakwood Cemetery Troy, NY.



Brothers Keough CC, Halpin PCC, LeMay PCC, Mabee, Dziewulski PCC and Straight form a Color Guard at Albany Rural Cemetery's soldiers plot on May 30th.



# 130th State Encampment:

Seven Brothers from the Col. George L Willard Camp 154 traveled to Ithaca, NY for the 130th Department of New York Encampment, May 3rd, 4th and 5th. In attendance were Ray LeMay III PCC, Leo McGuire, Dave Dziewulski PCC, Robert Walter, Jerry Orton PDC, Tim Mabee and Robert Keough CC. The Encampment kicked off with the Friday night Campfire that featured a very interesting lecture on Union units, formed in the Seneca County area, by Walter Gable, Seneca County Historian. Light refreshments were available in the Hospitality Room provided by the Allied Orders of the G.A.R. Saturday began with a Joint Memorial Service followed by business meetings the rest of the day. Nominations, election and installation were held at the end of the business meeting. Several Camp members were elected or appointed to various Department positions. Dave Dziewulski and Bob Keough were elected to the Department Council. Brothers Jerome Orton, Don Zeilman and Robert Walter were re-appointed to their Department posts as Historian, Editor of the Volunteer and Color Bearer respectively.



Department Color Bearer Brother Walter of the Willard Camp holds the American Flag as R. Stuart Smith Jr. Department Chaplain reads the initiation elevating Andrew Wheeler from junior member to member of the SUVCW.

On Saturday evening a good time was had by all. The banquet, sponsored by the Allied Orders, was well attended. Everyone enjoyed a fine meal and the short remarks from several speakers. A number of raffles were held before the evening events closed. A number of members of the Department held a Memorial Service at the Ithaca City Cemetery Sunday morning before departing.

At the end of the business meeting the first honorary Col. George L. Willard Camp Legion of Merit medal was awarded. It was presented to Past Department Commander Jeffrey Albanese for his three years of outstanding service to the Department of New York as Commander and for enhancing the well-being of the Order. The Brothers of the Willard Camp had unanimously voted this honor at an earlier camp meeting in February. The regular Legion of Merit was created to generate incentives among the Brothers of the Camp. It works on a point system where Brothers earn points for attending meetings and participating in Camp events. It has a number of levels that a Brother may achieve. This beautiful enameled medal was struck by the Northwest Territorial Mint in Dayton, NV. There are a number of Brothers at various levels of the Order in the Camp.



Camp Brothers Ray LeMay III PCC, Leo McGuire, Dave Dziewulski PCC, Robert Keough CC, Robert Walter, Jerry Orton PDC, and Tim Mabee.



Brother Ray LeMay holds a certificate of appreciation awarded to him for his work at the Department level during the past year.



Brother Robert Walter holds the medal as Robert P. Keough CC reads the accompanying citation and Dave Dziewulski PCC stands ready to drape the metal on Commander Albanese.

## St. Agnes Dedication:



Kelly Grimaldi addresses the many assembled participants at the Private Thomas Ray Ceremony.

On a bright sunny day hundreds gathered at St. Agnes Cemetery to honor Private Thomas Ray, Co. H 177 NYSVI. The Sixth Grade Class at Lincoln Elementary School in Schenectady had adopted this Civil War veteran's grave. They worked with Kelly Grimaldi, Albany Diocesan Cemeteries Historian, to obtain a stone for the grave and raised monies for the project. Mark Bodnar, a member of the Board of Trustees and the Historical Society of the Town of Colonie, acted as Master of Ceremonies. Other groups at the occasion were the musicians *Veterans in a New Field*, Christian Brothers Academy and LaSalle Institute doing the Presentation of Colors. Brothers of the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154 were on hand to fold the Colors. Members of the 125th NY Regiment Association gave the musket salute while *The Veterans in a New Field* played Taps. The Patriot Guard Riders of NY Region 4/5 manned a Flag Line around the grave site throughout the ceremony. Brothers Dave Dziewulski PCC, Leo McGuire, Charles Walter and Robert Keough CC took time out to attend on their way to the 130th Department of New York Encampment. The program ended with each of the students from Lincoln Elementary School placing flowers on Private Ray's grave.



Brothers begin the process of folding the American flag during the St. Agnes commemoration for Private Thomas Ray, Co. H 177 NYSVI.

Photo by: Don Macomber, Ride Captain, PGRNY

## New Mount Ida Clean-up:

Members from the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154 were among a number of volunteers who arrived at the New Mount Ida Cemetery in Troy on April 27th. Every spring neighbors and friends of the cemetery gather to help out with needed clean up after the ravages of winter and time. One of unique undertakings was the rehabbing of the stone of John and Mary Hooper. They were both former slaves who met in Troy. John was an escaped slave who made his way north using the underground railroad from Georgia. Mary escaped from her bondage in Maryland. They were both well known member of the African M. E. Zion Church. Alysia Hamilton is the coordinator for this very fine undertaking.



Volunteers flank the stone of John & Mary Hooper including Brothers John Swartwout third from the left and Brother Tim Mabee far right. CC Keough is not shown.

## Funeral:



Brothers Ingmire, Straight, Keough CC, John Swartwout, Walter and LeMay form a Color Guard at Harry Leroy Haddley's Funeral. He was the father of Brother Jon Hadley.

## In Memory:

In Memory  
**Harry Leroy "Roy" Hadley**  
 April 26, 2013  
 Father of  
 Brother Jon Hadley

## General George H. Thomas MoU:

In a past edition of the Guidon (Fall 2012) it was announced that Willard Camp had co-adopted, with the Department of New York, the Kellogg Family Plot in Oakwood Cemetery which contains the monument marker for General George Thomas.

In summary, the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154, Department of New York, was notified in an August 1, 2012 letter from Mr. Bernie Vogel of the Troy Cemetery Association, Inc. (TCA, a.k.a. Oakwood Cemetery) that the trustees accepted our adoption of the Kellogg Family plot that holds General George Thomas. Several days prior to receiving that letter, NY Department Commander Albanese issued Order #6 which recognized Willard Camp's adoption of the gravesite in concert with the Department and encouraged support of the project. That September (2012) the monument was cleaned and the Sons received many compliments on the nice job that was done.

Since that initial work event Willard Camp was informed that the TCA adjusted the Eagle and moved in back into its proper place (vandals tried to tip it off the monument).! Willard Camp also met with the TCA to outline projects and express its intent with regard to the Kellogg Family Plot and to formulate a memorandum of understanding (MoU) among the interested parties that would outline the tasks and the interrelationships. Willard Camp has now successfully negotiated an MoU among the Camp, the TCA and the Friends of Oakwood Cemetery (Friends). After some brief back-and-forth edits, the MoU agreement was completely signed on June 6, 2013.

This is a significant relationship for all. The SUVCW, being a 501(c)4 organization is tax exempt but donations to the organization are not tax deductible. It was assumed that our tax status could discourage people from making donations. TCA is a 501(c)13 organization, i.e. a cemetery company, and is also tax exempt. Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. However, these donations must be made to the cemetery as a whole and cannot be made for specific lots or crypts. This clearly didn't meet our collective needs. We needed a vehicle that was both tax exempt and allowed the donors to receive the maximum allowable tax deduction by law while the dollars were targeted

for the Kellogg plot and the Gen. Thomas Monument. PCC Dzielwski requested that TCA and the Sons use the Friends of Oakwood Cemetery as the vehicle for funding the maintenance and repair of the Thomas Monument and the Kellogg Family Plot. The Friends are a 501 (c)3 organization and can accept donations that are tax deductible as long as the annual income is not in excess of \$25,000. In addition, the donors get the maximum charitable tax deduction. We also have the benefit of a governing Board of Trustees for the cemetery to give executive oversight that will give confidence to the donors that their money will be properly used. There will be audits to verify the disposition of monies. In the short term we are preparing to establish projects with TCA and the Friends and begin fundraising for the Monument and plot. Work parties are planned for July, August and September 2013. In the long-term, objectives include trimming the large tree the keeps raining down debris on the plot and has resulted in damage to the perimeter fence. Repairing the original fencing and replacing missing fencing is also a future task. We are optimistic about re-grouting the monument this fall. Mr. Joe Ferrannini of Grave Stone Matters has offered his services for the remainder of this project. He has expressed a desire to complete this work with the Camp and the Department. Finally, a brief article that was a reprise of the Guidon article appeared in Spring 2013 issue of the national SUVCW Banner (Vol. 117 No. 3).



Past Camp Commander David Dzielwski explains work that had been done to the General Thomas monument last year. There will be more repairs in the future.

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

Month	Date	Event / Location
July	20 -21	Civil War Day at Knickerbocker Mansion
	21	Celebration at Grant's Cottage
August	17-18	Schuyler Flatts Civil War Weekend
September	7	Camp meeting St. Agnes 10:00 a.m.
	14-15	Saratoga Springs Civil War Encampment

### 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](http://saratogacivilwarencampment.org/Home_Page.html)