

# THE GUIDON

1897

THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

2017

Col. George L. Willard Camp # 154, P.O. Box 13681 Albany, NY 12212-3681 [www.GLWILARD154.org](http://www.GLWILARD154.org)

SUMMER 2017

## Tree Threatening General Thomas Grave site Removed

By: David M. Dziewulski, PCC and Raymond LeMay III, PDC

The Willard Camp adopted the Kellogg Family Plot and General Thomas gravesite in 2012. The following year we completed a memorandum of agreement with the Friends of Oakwood Cemetery Troy NY, Inc. and Oakwood Cemetery to support the maintenance of the plot and grave site. Since that time we have contributed directional signage and a site marker to the Oakwood Cemetery site. These were installed in 2014 and dedicated in 2015. The Camp has continued to do fundraising for the upkeep of the plot by selling stamp caches related to the Civil War, pins for the GAR sesquicentennial, through general solicitation of donations and, most recently, through the sales of a General Thomas challenge coin. Cooperation among camp members resulted in a concerted effort to help remove the ash tree that has rained down boughs onto the Kellogg plot and destroyed the original fencing.

The Camp received great news from Oakwood Cemetery through our Brother James King, that the tree was scheduled for removal on Friday August 11, 2017. Since this was a significant event in the preservation of the plot and grave site word was quickly passed among the brothers of Willard Camp so that we could have some representation at Oakwood Cemetery for the event.

Brother Raymond LeMay III, PDC who arrived on site at 8 AM was followed by other brothers shortly afterward. In addition to Brother LeMay, the Camp was also represented at various times by Brothers DSVC Leo McGuire, PCC, James King, and Tim Mabee. Bernie Vogel, Chief Administrator of Oakwood Cemetery, joined the group and the tree removal crew arrived at about 8:30 AM. One surprise that required attention was an active nest of hornets, or other similar insects, that needed to be cleared from the plot for the safety of the workers. Around 8:50 AM a crane was emplace. An arborist was hoisted to the tree and the first limb was removed at 10:02 AM. After two hours a truckload of wood was removed to a safe place for drying and consideration for future use. At 1:37 PM the tree was finally felled.

Willard Camp 154 should be proud of the contribution it made to the tree removal project. It amounted to one-third of the cost of removing the tree from the Kellogg Family plot. However, a final major project had to wait for this tree removal - - repair and rebuilding of the original iron perimeter fence. For years tree limbs have damaged sections of the original fence. The missing sections have all been carefully stored for use during rehabilitation of the fence and entry gate. The proper craftsmen have to be located, contacted and quotes obtained for the work needed. The Camp will continue to raise funds for the plot and grave site through the sales of the General Thomas challenge coin. Interested parties can obtain the coin for \$20 + \$3 for shipping. Contact the Camp by writing to: Willard Camp #154, P.O. Box 13681, Albany, NY 12212-3681.



Brothers James King, Leo McGuire DSVC and Ray LeMay III PDC. The Thomas grave site and tree in the background.



One of the giant limbs in front of the Kellogg Plot.

## Hartford Recruiting Station



Civil War Recruiting office in Hartford, NY

Brother McGuire reports he visited the only surviving Civil War recruiting office in New York State. He went to the recruiting building in Hartford NY to drop off Camp information. The museum is open Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. The camp will be donating a lighted flag pole and flag to the museum. In addition, plans are being made to hold one of our monthly meetings at the Station in 2018.

## Schuyler Flatts Event



Five Camp Brothers and members of the musical group the Iron Jacks belting out a Civil War sea chantry.

Six members of the Col. George L. Willard Camp #154, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War were on hand to provide period music for the Schuyler Flatts Military Living History event. Dave Dziwulski PCC, DJ Dziwulski, Joseph Dziwulski, John Swartwout, Frank Swartwout and Robert Keough PCC all members of the Camp were on hand to provide music for the event. Units representing fighters from biblical times to World War II as well as civic groups provided an interesting two-day event for the many visitors to the Flatts.

## Grant Cottage Event



Brothers Leo McGuire DSVC, Jerry Orton PDC, and Brian Castler in front of Jerry's tent and exhibit. Robert Keough PCC was also present.

The Brothers met at Grant Cottage on July 23rd for the annual remembrance day observances on the 132nd anniversary of Grant's death held at Mt. McGregor. Brother Orton had his Civil War tent and GAR artifacts on-hand for viewing by visitors to the event. Re-enactors portraying Grant's family and closest friends gathered on the Cottage porch and bid the man they loved and respected a final, very personal farewell. Speakers were Ben Kemp as U.S. Grant's youngest son, Jesse Grant, and Steve Trimm portraying Grant's physician Dr. John Hancock Douglas. The Brothers marched to the flag pole, took down the black-edged funereal flag and then replaced it with another at half staff. The original flag was then folded and presented to Mrs. U. S. Grant on the porch of the cottage. At this point Taps was played and the event came to an end.



General U.S. Grant lying in state at City Hall in New York City.

# Congratulation Mr. & Mrs. Raymond LeMay III



Raymond LeMay III do you take Kerri Bevan to be your . . . ?

One could not have asked for a more beautiful day than September 10, 2017. With the average age of the Brothers way beyond the age of first marriages, many were on hand to witness the vows between Raymond LeMay III PCC, PDC to Kerri Bevan. On the top deck, at the stern of the *Lac du Saint Sacrement*, with blue skies and the American Flag floating in a light breeze the couple was married by the ship's captain. One of our Brothers, Tim Mabee, was a groomsman in order to keep a close eye on Ray. After the ceremony there were drinks and hors d'oeuvres followed by a very lovely meal. The dancing commenced on the lower deck with the bridal couple joining in with great gusto. A short break was taken to cut the cake with all looking on. Kerri couldn't let Ray get away without a tiny little bit of cake on his face. The evening went on happily as the *Lac du Saint Sacrement* first cruised up Lake George and then returned to its home port on what was a warm and delightful moonlit evening.

After the ship docked guests started to depart. Some headed directly for home while others went to local accommodations - - but all with a sense of joy for the newlyweds. The Camp wishes them a long and happy life together.



Someone said, "Let them eat cake!" This could go very, very wrong.



The happy couple had smiles for everyone.



The couple and guests dancing the night away.



This is called "Ray and Kerri's world turned upside down."

# CIVIL WAR VETERAN ENTERS 100TH YEAR, TALKS OF MARRIAGE

Almost 400 Old Forge Residents Turn Out to Celebrate His Birthday

## Empire State Oddities

### Wants His Exercise

Syracuse Union Newspaper for July 29, 1938

Complaining of the fuss people make over his birthday, 101 year old Charles Jennette of Old Forge wonders why he can't work in his own garden without having folks get "all het up" about it.

Jennette is the only surviving Civil War veteran in the central Adirondacks. Two years ago he planned to marry an Albany woman, but she changed her mind at the last minute.

The centenarian walks a mile to the Old Forge post office every day, tends his garden and makes maple syrup each spring. He does not wear glasses but reads the daily newspaper.

After that, it seemed anything he did was remarkable, and at such an advanced age, it certainly was. In 1937 (age 100) he rode in a Memorial Day parade as guest of honor. Shortly after his 101st birthday, he attended the Gettysburg Annual GAR Convention 72 years after his combat days had ended. Interesting story of a former GAR member.



At age 99, Charles Jennette with his fiancé, Ella Manning

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 . . . . .	David Dziewulski
Treasurer . . . . .	Robert Keough
Camp Council. . . . .	David Dziewulski
Camp Council. . . . .	Robert Keough
Camp Council. . . . .	Leo McGuire
Chaplain . . . . .	George Malinoski
Patriotic Instructor . . . . .	Vince Jockimo
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	23	Grant Cottage Remembrance
July	31	Camp Meeting
August	5	Camp Meeting
August	19	Scyler Flatts
September	9	Camp Meeting
October	7	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/>