

The Guidon

P.O. Box 13681 - Albany, NY 12212-3681 - IN OUR 113TH YEAR - www.GIWILLARD154.ORG

Winter 2011 - 2012

Dedication of Fort Willard Historic Site

By

David M. Dziejulski, CC

On October 6, 2011 Commander Dziejulski received an email from Mr. Chuck Wallace notifying the Camp of an event about to occur in Virginia. The brief note simply stated: "If you have anyone near Alexandria, Virginia who would like to participate in this ribbon cutting, please let me know." Mr. Wallace, who is a re-enactor in Virginia from the First Connecticut Volunteer Heavy Artillery, also had received very short notice of a ribbon-cutting event, to occur on October 15, 2011, dedicating the Fort Willard Historic Site! It was through Chuck's brief email, with an attached invitation from Fairfax County, that Willard Camp #154 was able to participate, from a distance, in the Fort Willard Historic Site dedication ceremony.

An earlier press release told the story of the site: The 1.6-acre park was a Civil War fort that was constructed in 1862 by the 34th Massachusetts as part of the Union's defense of Washington. The series of forts and artillery batteries around the capitol city was developed to protect it from Confederate attack. Forts O'Rourke, Weed, Farnsworth, and Lyon formed a north-south axis along the western edge of Alexandria; Fort Willard anchored the southeastern portion of that line and Fort Ellsworth, just west of Alexandria, anchored the northern tip of these installations. By the end of the war there was a line of 163 forts and batteries that extended 37 miles around Washington. Fort Willard is one of only four remaining defensive forts in Virginia; the others are Forts Marcy, Meyer and Ward.

Cmdr. Dziejulski contacted Ms. Judy Pederson, Public Information Officer for the Fairfax County Park Authority, with a request to submit a letter of appreciation for the preservation of Ft. Willard. The offer was enthusiastically accepted and Brothers Dziejulski, Keough and Malinoski composed and edited a letter that was read during the dedication ceremony. The final text of the letter, addressed to Park Authority Chairman Bouie, included the following comments:

"It is very gratifying for our Camp to know that of the many forts built for the defense of Washington, one carrying the name of Col. Willard was fortunate enough to survive the development of the area over the past one hundred and fifty years."

"On the occasion of the official ribbon-cutting ceremony . . . we would like to recognize the efforts and collaborations of the Park Authority, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, the Belle Haven Citizens Association, [and] the local citizenry . . . this new park will enhance the local history as it preserves the memory of those who served our Nation at this location as well as the memory of Colonel George L. Willard."

The area has been renovated to reflect the uses of the park as both a neighborhood park and an historic resource. New amenities such as walking paths, sitting areas, and interpretive signs were added to the park while the bomb proof, sentry area, magazine and cannon embrasures were restored to various levels resulting in the preservation of about 25% of the original structure.

As our letter to Chairman Bouie indicated: We are grateful for the efforts that helped preserve this Fort which carries Colonel Willard's name into the future.

The following link contains a very informative planning document from 2007 that was produced by the Fairfax County Park Authority: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gmp/ftwillardgmp.pdf>



Fort Willard Historic Site just before the formal ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 15, 2011.



Fort Willard Historic Marker (both photos supplied by Matthew Kaiser, Fairfax County Park Authority).

A Brother the Camp can be truly proud of:

When recently ask to summarize his activities for the Camp Commander, Brother Orton PDC, Department of NY Historian and Willard Camp Historian sent the following list. In order to save space, the list has been abbreviated. Keep in mind that where Jerry goes - - so goes his wife Lorraine Orton, PDPWRC, National Historian, Woman's Relief Corps:

Commander here is a brief summary of our activities since the department encampment May 19, 2011.

- May 27-29 Memorial Day with the 148th NYSV in Waterloo, NY. Helped raise over \$1,000 for flag restoration.
- May 30. Eastwood (part of Syracuse, NY) American Legion Post 1276 parade in AM. In PM took part in DUVCW ceremony in Oswego at city park.
- June 11-12. Peterboro Civil War Days. Met descendants of US Colored Troops and descendants of slaves who knew Garret Smith.
- June 18. Took part in grave ceremony with Bridgewater SUVCW members. Lorraine was color bearer.
- June 30. Took part in the Oswego County Fair parade and spend three days showing our GAR items at the fair in Sandy Creek, NY .
- July 23. Took part in the 126th commemoration of the death of US Grant at the Grant Cottage, Mt. McGregor, NY.
- August 4. Set up a GAR display at the Daughters of Union Veterans national convention in DeWitt.
- August 6. Took part in a ceremony for the anniversary of the death of US Grant on Mt. McGregor.
- August 13-16. Lorraine and I attended national convention of the Woman's Relief Corps, Aux. to the GAR in Madison WS.
- August 24-Sept. 5. Work at NYS Fair history book with SAR, DAR and SUVCW.
- Sept. 17-18. Participated in the Saratoga Springs Civil War Days.
- Sept. 24. Living history event at Cato Historical Society, Cato, Cayuga County.
- Sept. 25. Attended the fundraiser of

the French Camp #17 in Watertown, NY to help raise funds (nearly \$4,000) for monument restoration.

I have sent out numerous emails as well as adding the SUVCW's history of camps, department commanders and encampments. Have taken numerous photographs of memorials and etc.

Sincerely in F, C and L,
Jerome Orton, PDC, Dept. Historian
Lorraine Orton, PDP-WRC, National Historian,
Woman's Relief Corps

The activity continued unabated through December with Brother Orton photo-documenting numerous GAR monuments and related Civil War markers in New York.

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>

Camp Elections

The Col. G.L. Willard Camp, #154, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War would like to announce our newly elected officers for 2012. Elections were held November 5, 2011 with the following results:

David M. Dziejwski, Camp Commander
Robert P. Keough, Sr. Vice-Commander
Ray W. Le May III, Jr. Vice-Commander
George F. Malinoski, Sect'y/Treas

Camp Council members :

Bill Halpin, PCC
Paul Grady, PCC
Ray W. LeMay III, PCC

Appointed officers include:

George Malinoski, Chaplain
Art Young, Jr., Patriotic Instructor
Leo McGuire, Color Bearer
Chuck Berns, Guide
John E. Hulse, Guard
Jerry Orton, Camp Historian
Rich Saunders, Eagle Scout Coordinator.
Installations were held on December 10, 2011.

Congratulations to all !

Troy Victorian Stroll

Willard Camp returned to the Troy Victorian Stroll after a one-year hiatus. The Stroll was held on Sunday December 4 from 11 AM to 5 PM. The Troy Record reported that this 29th edition of the event attracted over 20,000 people throughout the day. Five brothers manned the Camp display and it was estimated that we collectively spoke to more than 100 people one-on-one about the SUVCW in the time from noon to 4:30PM; about 60 persons took one of our tri-fold SUVCW brochures. The Camp also gave away between 50 and 75 *USS Monitor* posters. You will recall that the posters were developed by the Willard Camp and the US Naval Landing Party through a grant from the Hudson River Valley Heritage area. The poster was a constant topic for conversation, it attracted folks to our table and it remains a very popular 'giveaway' item.



Brother Malinoski discusses the USS Monitor with the public during the Troy Victorian Stroll

In Memoriam

Lucy Peppen
November 23, 1924
November 3, 2011

GREENISLAND, NY – Mrs. Lucy Peppen was an At-Large member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Auxiliary. She was the grandmother of Col. George L. Willard Camp 154's Past Camp Commander Raymond W. LeMay III.

Civil War Heritage Days

- 2012 -



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

Schuyler Flatts Cultural Park

Menands, NY

August 18-19, 2012

SAVE THE DATE!

Watch for developments at
civilwarheritagealbany.webs.com/

Hosted by the

Watervliet Historical Society

Event Organizer:

Mark Bodnar

(mbodnar1@nycap.rr.com)

with assistance from:

U.S. Naval Landing Party

Col. George L. Willard Camp 154

SUVCW Eagle Scout Awards:

Brother Sanderson reports the following individuals have received the SUVCW's Eagle Scout Certificate:

Charles McNaughton Cornell: February 27, 2011

Joshua James Joseph: June 12, 2011

John Emery Otruba: July 23, 2011

One of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War many goals and purposes is to reward young men who achieve the status of Eagle Scout with a special congratulatory letter and color Certificate of Commendation. While we encourage any young man searching for that special community service project to look to us for inspiration on projects relating to the Civil War, we offer this certificate with no "strings attached" other than you must be an Eagle. The Brothers of the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154 congratulate each of these young men on completing all their requirements for the Rank of Eagle Scout, Scouting's highest rank and we wish them success in the future.

A Color Guard for the Willard Camp:

This spring we decided that the Camp should have a color guard so that we will not be dependent upon other organizations when ceremonies need, or organizations request, a color guard.

Ideally, a Civil War color guard has six men: four men-at-arms and two color bearers. If necessary, we can get away with only two men-at-arms and two color bearers at an event. Therefore, it would be best if we could get eight brothers to participate to assure an acceptable presence.

To join the color guard you will need a proper Union uniform for the service you wish to portray (soldier, sailor, marine, revenue cutter service). To save space in this article, only a typical volunteer infantry package is outlined below; other service's kit will cost about the same. Experienced reenactors probably already have this equipment. Prices here are approximate.

- A kepi, bumper or McDowell cap. (\$40)
- A sack coat, frock coat or New York shell jacket, and kersey blue pants. The frock coat and shell jacket are really

hot, so consider that in your purchase. sack: \$90, pants \$95, suspenders \$20)

- A belt and buckle, either US or SNY buckle
- A cartridge box with tins, cartridge box plate; crossbelt and crossbelt plate.
- A cap box (Items 3, 4, &5 can be had as a package for (\$80)
- Musket, bayonet and scabbard (\$695 for Armisport M1861 rifle musket, \$49.50 for bayonet and scabbard)
- Brogans (\$101) and period sox
- Stainless steel canteen and cover (\$52.50)
- Shirt (\$34.50)

In summary, based on the prices of one well-known sutler, the cost is about \$500 for the uniform and another \$750 for a musket and bayonet. There are also some additional costs for musket caps, powder and cleaning implements. Shopping around may save money; for instance, another sutler has brogans for \$75. Vendors of reenactment gear usually have some pretty good sales during winter. Please do not buy anything now; volunteers will receive assistance in purchasing equipment. We know the musket is expensive, but you can still participate as a color bearer until you acquire a musket.

Next time we'll cover the training that volunteers will receive and how to sign up.

Concert to Benefit Flood Victims

Five Brothers from the Willard Camp, along with member musicians William Payne and Bob Delisle, performed with the Iron Jacks at two benefit concerts for flood victims of the Town of Wright (Schoharie County). Performances on November 5 and November 11, 2011 at the 1872 Gallupville House included other musical groups such as the 77th New York Balladeers, Rural Felicity and Uncle Billy's Balladeers. Additional concerts for Central Bridge, Esperance and Blenheim are planned in the near future.



Bill Payne, Brother Robert Walter, Bob Delisle, Brothers DJ Dziejwski, Dave Dziejwski, Robert Keough and Joseph Dziejwski.

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

Month	Date	Event / Location
February	4	Camp meeting 10:00 a.m. at St. Agnes Cemetery Menands, NY
March	3	Camp meeting 10:00 a.m. at St. Agnes Cemetery Menands, NY
March	14	Flood Victims Benefit Concert Bethlehem Community Church 6:30 p.m.
April	14	Camp meeting 10:00 a.m. at St. Agnes Cemetery Menands, NY (moved from April 7th because of Easter)

Brothers Use The Web and Visit These Sites:

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

NYS Civil War Sesquicentennial
<http://www.nycivilwar150.org/>
 Civil War Heritage Days 2012
<http://www.civilwarheritagealbany.webs.com/>