



Willard Camp Territory
If you reside in the darker shaded area you are eligible for Camp membership



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Col. George L. Willard
Camp 154

Albany, New York



Col. George L. Willard

Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty



Contact us at:
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What is the SUVCW?

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SV/SUV/SUVCW) was established by the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) to perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices of Union soldiers, sailors, marines and revenue cutter service members during the Civil War. It is a national organization composed of direct male descendants of those who served, although males who are not descendants may also join as Associate Members.

Designated by the GAR as its successor organization in 1931, and chartered by Congress as a charitable, educational organization in 1954, the SUV continues the patriotic work of the GAR. Each member is sworn to carry on the ideals of patriotism and fraternity laid down by his ancestors.

The basic level of organization of the SUV is the camp headed by a Camp Commander. The next levels are the State Department and National Headquarters.

Local History

The Local Sons of Civil War Veterans affiliation with the G.A.R. began in Albany, NY with the formation of the Fredrick Townsend Post in 1878. Townsend Post in 1894 became the Jacob H. Ten Eyck Camp #154 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War "SUV" in 1899.

The Camp's Headquarters were located at a specially designated GAR Room at the Albany County Courthouse; the GAR maintained a private entrance to the Courthouse on Elk Street that could be used by its members and auxiliaries.

The camp number was chosen in memory of the Hard Tack Regiment, the 154th NY Volunteer Infantry, in which Jacob H. Ten Eyck briefly served as Major. Jacob H. Ten Eyck was born in Albany and attended Albany Academy. In 1861 he served

in Co. "G", of the 3rd NY Vols., was commissioned a captain in the State militia and was mustered into U.S. service. He served nearly two years, being promoted major of the 154th NY Vols., and stationed in Virginia with the 11th Corps.

He resigned in 1864 due to ill health but was a leader in the Albany and Troy communities until his death in 1898.

New Namesake

In 1993 the camp voted to change its name to the Colonel George L. Willard Camp #154. Col Willard was originally honored with being the namesake of the Troy GAR Post No. 34.

Willard was cited for gallantry at Chapultepec Castle and for distinguished service throughout the Mexican War. In 1848 he was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the 8th U.S. Infantry upon the personal recommendation of Major-General Winfield Scott. Established in his chosen trade, Willard did well for himself, gaining the rank of captain by the outbreak of the Civil War. When the first call for two-year volunteers was made in 1861, Captain Willard eagerly raised the 2nd New York and fully expected to be named its colonel. At that time, however, government regulations prohibited regular army officers from commanding volunteer troops and, at the same time, retaining their commissions. Unwilling to resign his regular rank, Willard reluctantly gave up a chance to have his own command. Instead he served with the 19th U.S. Infantry, seeing action throughout the Peninsular Campaign and eventually rising to the rank of major.

As the Civil War intensified, the need for experienced officers to train the new volunteers also increased. Consequently regulations were changed, thus allowing Willard to retain his regular army rank, and accept the colonelcy of the 125th, on August 1862 - his thirty-fifth birthday. Willard was the

embodiment of a true soldier - strict when on duty, cool amid danger, of oft-proven bravery, respected alike by subordinates and superiors. Surely, greater deeds lay ahead for this leader of striking personal appearance, and rare soldierly accomplishments.

Colonel George L Willard was killed on the 2nd day of the Battle of Gettysburg, while acting as Brigadier General in the Third Division of the Second Army Corps. Willard's brigade had a significant impact on the fighting of July 2nd. The timely arrival of the brigade and its counterattack, checked and repulsed Barksdale's Mississippians, who had presented a threat to the left-center of the Union battle line. The brigade crossed over Plum Run and was just emerging from the woods and brushes of the swale, when Willard was struck by a shell. He was quickly carried from the front. The loss of such a promising leader was keenly felt.

