

## A Year in Review - Catching up with 2022



Participants at the Dedication of the Col. G.L. Willard Roadside Sign at Oakwood Cemetery.

### Many events to catch up on from 2022

As the Camp moved into the New Year 2022, the COVID pandemic started to wind down and many social events began to return to normal. This included our regular in-person Camp meetings; we were able to throw ZOOM overboard and right our ship. In May 2023 our *Guidon* editor, Brother Bob Keough, requested to be excused from Camp duties while retaining his membership. He'll continue to look over our shoulders to make sure we're doing a good job. That change left a lot of news to report. So this Spring edition of the *Guidon* will summarize some key events. The newsletter will return to normal issues in the Summer of 2023.

Some of the 2022 events in review are:

- Our February 2023 meeting was canceled due to renovation work at the Senior Center. Otherwise we had a full slate of meeting in 2022-23.
- The Camp held all of the planned 2022 Memorial Weekend activities. This included ceremonies on May 28 at Oakwood Cemetery and on May 30 at Albany Rural Cemetery.

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### Dedication of the Col. Willard Roadside Sign at Oakwood Cemetery

After repeated review of the elements for the sign that was proposed for the Col. Willard grave site and much planning for a dedication event, the Camp gathered on October 29, 2022 to dedicate the sign. There was a good turn out of media and approximately 100 people were in attendance. All of the Plum family monuments were cleaned for the event and the metal crosses stolen from one of the Plum monuments were replaced.



## Events (from p. 1)

- June 9, 2022 saw Brother Hernandez present the JROTC medal to an Albany High School student.
- On June 12, 2022 the Camp held its annual Lincoln Luncheon at Browns in Troy, NY. Thirteen Brothers and many "significant others" attended.
- The Memorandum of Understanding between the Camp and Albany Rural Cemetery was completed in July.
- Members participated in the annual Grant Remembrance Day (July 23).
- We participated in the annual celebration held at Uncle Sam's grave in Oakwood Cemetery (Sept. 13).
- On October 5 the Camp was part of several groups in attendance celebrating President Chester Arthur's birthday at his grave site.
- Officers for 2023 were sworn in on during the December Camp meeting.
- Wreaths Across America was celebrated (Dec. 17) by placing wreaths at the GAR plot in Albany Rural Cemetery and at the General Thomas, Col. Willard and Veterans Lot in Oakwood Cemetery.
- At the January 2023 Camp meeting it was announced that Cameron Smith and the G. L. Willard Camp 154 were awarded a \$70,800 American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) grant (see story p.3).
- Commander Maggs made final appointments to various officer positions for the calendar year 2023.



Group photograph of Brothers in attendance at the 2022 Lincoln Luncheon

## GAR Plot Rededicated



The GAR plot located in Albany Rural Cemetery was rededicated on Veterans Day 2022. First and foremost, the ceremony recognized those veterans buried in the plot. The Camp also dedicated the flagpole and solar light that was donated by Trustco Bank. A roadside sign that indicates the year the plot was established was also noted during the ceremony. The sign, although a project of the Camp, was anonymously donated. We are very grateful to our benefactors for helping us "keep green the memory" of our relatives who served to preserve the Union.

## JROTC Awards Given

Brother McGuire presented JROTC awards at two ceremonies. He was in attendance at Amsterdam High School on June 1 and Albany High School on June 9.



Brother Leo McGuire, PDC with Cadet Jeffrey Kinder of Amsterdam High School with his JROTC award.



# ARPA Grant Awarded

In 2022 the City of Troy announced the availability of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in the Spring with proposals due in May. Cameron Smith, with crucial support from the George L. Willard Camp 154 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Joseph Ferrannini of Grave Stone Matters, defined a project, "Preserving The Mount Ida Cemeteries." This project was for both the Old and New Mount Ida Cemeteries and it aligned with the City's emphasis on improving public greenspaces that are in need of deferred maintenance and were essential resources during the pandemic. In early November the team was excited to learn that the proposal was approved for funding by the City Council after being recommended by the City's ARPA Steering Committee.

The project objectives focus on preserving the Old and New Mount Ida cemeteries through a one-time investment in a tree survey and maintenance program along with monument repair and preservation. Trees will be trimmed to remove dead, dying and crowded limbs which will allow new healthy growth. Under the trees are marble and granite monuments, many of which are Civil War Veterans and significant figures from Troy's past, that will be cleaned and repaired. Ultimately, the project will help ensure the greenspace remains safe for visitors and honors those interred there. The effort will bring the Cemeteries closer to their original conditions.

PlanIT Geo completed the New Mount Ida tree survey in late April. That work will guide the tree maintenance work to be performed later this year. On Monday May 22nd Mr. Ferrannini began a working session in Old Mount Ida on Pawling Ave. that lasted until June 10th. Many fallen or buried monuments have been extracted from the dirt and are being cleaned, repaired, and up righted; some were nearly 200 years old. More details can be found at the Camp website: [glwillard154.org](http://glwillard154.org).

Thanks are due to: The City of Troy; Rensselaer County Legislature; Project Manager Cameron Smith; Camp Program Manager David Dziewulski PCC; Thomas Maggs CC; Leo McGuire PDC; the National SUVCW and Christopher Philipppo, preservationist and local historian.



**Image at the entrance of Old Mt. Ida Cemetery just as work commenced on May 22**



**Look back to the same area on May 30. About 18 monuments were uncovered and/or restored.**



**Volunteers working on uncovered monuments.**

# SUVCW Supporting Scouts

The follow scouts have received the SUVCW's Eagle Scout Certificate from The Col. George L. Willard CAMP # 154

Name:	Troop:	Date:
Patrick Root		14Feb2022
Sean Meinecke		18Mar2018
Amadeus Cruz		21Aug2021
Michael Slattery		23Jun2021
Donald MacMillian	6027	6Apr2021
Eamonn Dobey	45	23Nov2020
Alden Haran	45	23Nov2020
Oisin Haren	45	23Nov2020
Massimo Accardo	45	23Nov2020
Matthew Krumm		8Jan2022
Leins Barthe		26Feb2022
William Gonzalez		15Jun2021
Steven Sorge	238	8Jan2022
Logan Bruno	4024	4May2022
Chase Demick	4070	1Jun2022
Kentaro Kasai	4001	1Jun2022
Andrew Paster	4001	6Jul2022
Nathjaniel Mack	6016	6Jul2022
Nicholas Giambrone	6004	6Jul2022
Lance Garland	6016	13Jul2022
Joes Thurston	6027	13Jul2022
Owen Martin	4018	13Jul2022
Colin Obrien	6044	27Jul2022
Reece Saunders	6127	27Jul2022
Christian Van		
Guilder	6016	3Aug2022
Brenden Rawlins	6016	3Aug2022

## Congratulations



**The Sons of  
Union Veterans  
of the Civil War**

*"Keeping Green The Memory"*

## Camp Officers

Col. George L. Willard Camp # 154

Camp Commander . . . . . Tom Maggs  
 Sr. Vice Commander . . . . . Robert Keough  
 Jr. Vice Commander . . . . . John Swartwout  
 Secretary/Treasurer . . . . . Leo McGuire  
 Camp Council . . . . . Vince Jockimo  
 Camp Council . . . . . Richard Straight  
 Camp Council . . . . . Brian Castler  
 Chaplain . . . . . Rev. Mark Isaacs  
 Patriotic Instructor . . . . Michael Hernandez  
 Guide . . . . . Paul Cooney  
 Guard . . . . . Vince Jockimo  
 Color Bearers . . . . . Michael Golden  
    Timothy Gaffney  
 Graves Registration . . . . . Chris White  
 Monument Officer . . . . . David Dziewulski  
 Eagle Scout Coordinator. . . Brian Castler  
 Guidon Editor Emeritus . . . Robert Keough  
 Acting Editor . . . . . David Dziewulski

## Coming Events

June 17 Lincoln Luncheon  
 Aug 3 - 5 National Encampment  
 Sept 2 Camp Meeting

The Guidon is the official newsletter of the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154 - SUVCW. It is usually published 4 time each year.

## Browse These Sites:

Col. George L. Willard Camp #154  
<http://www.glwillard154.org/>  
 SUVCW Department of NY  
<http://suvchw.org/ny/deptny.htm>  
 SUVCW National Headquarters  
<http://www.suvchw.org/>



A relatively uncommon Navy-themed Decoration Day postcard circa 1912.