

Ways That We Honor and Remember

Memorial Day 2023



Camp members at the Col. Willard gravesite for Memorial Day Weekend exercises (5/27/23).

Willard Camp spent part of the Memorial Day weekend performing its traditional remembrances in Troy and Albany. Camp members participated in ceremonies at Oakwood Cemetery near the Vanderhyden Bell. Mr. Michael Barrett served as master of ceremonies. The Veterans of Lansingburgh presented the colors while



Camp members at the GAR plot in Albany Rural Cemetery for Memorial Day Weekend exercises (5/27/23).

the Camp also had a color guard present. The 125th New York Regimental Association attended and they performed a musket salute. The proceedings closed with taps and the Colors were then retired.

Afterwards, Camp members went to pay their respects to Col. Willard, Gen. Thomas and the veterans in the "Soldiers Plot" at Oakwood Cemetery. The group then traveled to Albany Rural Cemetery to visit the "Soldiers and Sailors Plot" and perform an additional graveside ceremony.

As usual it was a busy but rewarding day. Our commemorations continued on Memorial Day, May 30, with the dedication of the bench to all Civil War Unknowns at The Gerald P. Solomon National Cemetery (see page 2 for the story).

Finding and Honoring the Last Civil War Veterans

Another way the Camp is honoring the memory of our Civil War ancestors is through the *Last Union Veteran Project*. Started by the National SUVCW in 2003 under the name of the *Last Soldier Project*, its objective was to find the final resting place of the last Civil War veteran buried in each county/parish of each State.

The project in New York was spearheaded by Willard Camp's Brian Castler. Brian has reported that after some minor re-checking of his data and information, he has found the last veteran in each of New York's sixty-two counties - - - from Albany to Yates. Although most were members of the infantry, cavalry and artillery, four veterans were sailors and one was a member of the US Colored Troops.

By any measure, this is an amazing accomplishment. Be sure to thank and congratulate Brother Castler.

Lincoln Luncheon 2023



A group photograph of the Brothers present at the luncheon.

The annual Lincoln Luncheon was held this year at the Turf Tavern in Scotia. This was the first time we used this venue which was suggested by Commander Maggs. Beth Merrill, Executive Director of Grant Cottage, was our special guest. She discussed the new fire suppression system that was installed at the cottage and also gave a brief biography of her ancestor who served in the Civil War. Beth presented an anecdote, which has been handed down through the generations in her family, about how President Lincoln was inspecting troops defending Washington City and chatted briefly with her relative, Albert Porter (Co. I 16th Reg't NY Heavy Artillery). Mr. Lincoln commented on the difference in their heights. Albert was only 5 ft. 3 inches whereas President Lincoln was 6 ft. 4 in.

In addition, Commander Maggs received his Sentinel of the Order badge while Brother Cooney advanced to Legionnaire Officer 1st Class. Congratulations!



Beth Merrill (center), Director of Grant Cottage, was our special guest.

Bench Dedicated to the Civil War Unknowns



Camp members at the bench dedication. Inset shows the plaque on the bench.

Willard Camp dedicated a bench to the Unknown Civil War Dead at the Gerald Solomon National Cemetery (GSNC) on May 30, 2023.

This project was initiated after a call from Scott Lamb, Director of the GSNC, in 2021. Mr. Lamb approached Brother Richard Straight PDC about the possibility of installing a memorial bench, base and plaque. Brother Richard interacts annually with GSNC for the Wreaths Across America Program so he was the logical contact for Willard Camp. The dedication was the culmination of a coordinated effort led by Brother Richard. The bench was delivered in late 2022 and Memorial Day was selected as the event date.

The location of the bench is within the line-of-sight to the grave of the Civil War Unknown whose remains were recovered from the Antietam battlefield.



Graveside ceremony for the Civil War Unknown.

Update on the Mt. Ida Cemetery Project

The first phase of the Mt. Ida Cemetery Project was completed between May 22 and June 10, 2023 in the "Old" portion of the cemetery. The next phase of work will start on October 1, 2023 and Joe Ferrannini will continue the work he started in Old Mt. Ida. Anyone who wants to assist in the project should contact Cameron Smith via email at preservenewmountida@gmail.com. For anyone who is able, it would be very helpful if you could volunteer not only for weekends but also for weekdays between October 1 and 15. If you have work restrictions please be sure to mention your needs and capabilities.

You can view a photoarchive of the progress that was made in the Spring at the following link: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/ExLjFxorYDmGinPA7>.

Other work that is planned for the late Summer and early Fall involves pruning 17 trees by a professional arborist. Finally, the City of Troy has removed a tree that was split and exhibited a lot of motion during storms.

Split pine tree at New Mt. Ida Cemetery

Before removal



After

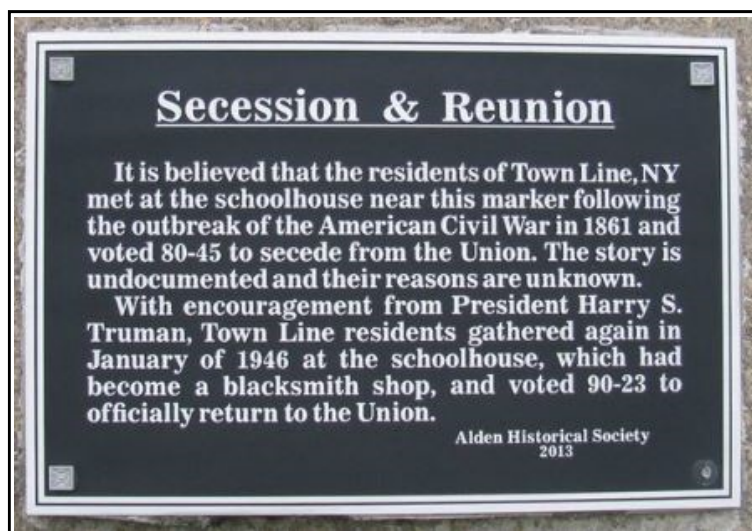


Buffalo Secedes from the Union!

Not really. But a small hamlet in Erie County called Town Line voted on a resolution in late 1861 to secede from the United States. By that time seven Southern States had already left the Union.

The story is told that the German-American members of the community heard rumors of conscription - - which was why they left their native land in the first place - - and they didn't want to be involved in an internal conflict that reminded them of the upheavals in their homeland. It appears that a few people fled to Canada while at least 20 men, from a total of 125 in the hamlet, actually fought for the Union. The hamlet was also a depot for the Underground Railroad making the vote for secession even more bewildering. Since Town Line was never legally incorporated as a municipal unit, the resolution was meaningless and neither the Union nor the Confederacy ever recognized the vote.

In order to set things right the hamlet had a special ceremony performed in 1946 to "rejoin" the Union. A vote to rescind the original resolution was successful and Town Line, along with the Union, could breathe easy again!



Commemorative Plaque of Town Line's Secession - Alden Historical Society

SUVCW Supporting Scouts

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

	Troop:	Date:
Hunter Herrington	6016	3Aug2022
Carter Cigan	4018	3Aug2022
David Saunders	6127	27Jul2022
Montgomery Benedict	6073	17Aug2022
Matthew Mead	4036	17Aug2022
Cole Sears	6030	17Aug2022
Seth Trenper		2Feb2022
Dana Schmid	4024	12Oct2022
Joseph Tangora	4021	12Oct2022
Trever Duthaler	4011	02Nov2022
Ethan Schwaner	6002	02Nov2022
Brian Wells	6127	02Nov2022
Kentaro Kasai	1	01Jan2022
Andrew Eisler	1	05Jan2022
Andrew Paster	1	06July2022
Finn Doherty	16002	08Dec2022
Brandon Lindermann	4011	08Dec2022
Alex Dominquez	4070	4Jan2023
Tyler Yocum	4013	4Jan2023
John T. Parsells		2Jul2019
Lucas Quill	1037	6Dec2023
Christopher Freemantle		20Mar2019

Congratulations

The Camp is Now Accepting Nominations for Officers

2024

Please Consider Serving

If you want to nominate someone be sure they will *accept* the nomination and will serve if elected.



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

"Keeping Green The Memory"

Camp Officers

Col. G. 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/*Guidon* Editor
 David Dziewulski
 Eagle Scout Coordinator. . . . Brian Castler
Guidon Editor Emeritus Robert Keough

Coming Events

Oct. 1 Work Re-Start at Mt. Ida
 Oct. 7 Camp Meeting
 Oct. 29 Mid-Year Meeting - ZOOM

The Guidon is the official newsletter of the Col. George L. Willard Camp #154, SUVCW. It is *usually* published four times a year. The editor may be reached at: dmdeezee@nycap.rr.com

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/>