

# the guidon

THE SONS OF  
UNION  
VETERANS OF  
THE CIVILWAR

1897 \* GEORGE L WILLARD CAMP # 154 P.O. BOX 13681 ALBANY NY 12212-3681 www.GLWILLARD154.org \* Winter 2024-2025

## New Brothers Initiated in November and December



Initiation of Brother Douglas Huntley (l) with Mark Isaacs and Cmdr. Swartwout.

Our camp has been very fortunate in recruiting and retention of members. It is encouraging to have new “enlistees” join our ranks on a regular basis. During our camp meetings in November and December we initiated Brother Douglas Huntley and Joel Butler, respectively. This can serve as a reminder to all current members to talk about the Sons, our objectives and activities as a means of recruiting new members. Targeting Civil War “buffs,” who do not have the prescribed lineage, as associate members is also worth pursuing.



Brother Joel Butler (l) with Mark Isaacs during Joel's initiation.

## Officers Elected for 2025 Camp Year



Installation of officers for the 2025: (l to r) Brothers Leo McGuire, Mark Isaacs, Justin Devendorf, Vince Jockimo, Rich Straight and John Swartwout.

During the regular Camp meeting held on December 7, 2024, the election of officers was held. The elected group is a mix of familiar faces. Willard Camp is grateful for their willingness to serve.

Commander - Mark D. Isaacs  
Sr. Vice Commander - Justin Devendorf  
Jr. Vice Commander - Brian Sherman  
Secretary/Treasurer – John B. Swartwout, Jr.

The following brothers were elected to the Camp Council:

Chair - Richard Straight, PDC, PCC  
Member 2 – Vincent Jockimo  
Member 3 – Brian Castler, PDC, PCC

The full slate of appointed positions will be announced in the Spring edition of the *Guidon*. Congratulations and best wishes to all!





**Conservation of the gravestones of Anthony Nunneman, 21st NY Cavalry. The original stone was re-set and the modern stone was re-leveled. Both were cleaned.**

# Sons of the American Revolution Wreath Laying

On September 15, 2024 SUVCW Camp Commander John Swartwout presented a wreath as part of the Annual Memorial Wreath Laying at the Monument to the Unknown American Dead. Each year, the Saratoga Battle Chapter SAR pays respects to the soldiers buried nearby by laying a wreath at the "DAR Monument." Dedicated in 1931 by the Daughters of the American Revolution of New York State, the "DAR Monument" is the largest memorial at the Saratoga National Historic Park. It was erected to commemorate those unknown soldiers buried during the critical Battles of Saratoga in 1777.

-Contributions from Michael Golden



**Pictured are members of SUVCW from across the state of New York who were present for the wreath laying.**

## Fall 2024 Update on the Mt. Ida Conservation Project

Grave Stone Matters (Joe Ferrannini) and Cameron Smith started the Fall, 2024 effort at New Mt. Ida Cemetery on September 30. Work under the ARPA grant started in earnest on October 1st and was to continue until October 15. Rain-outs caused the work to be extended until October 20.

Volunteers from the community helped locate buried monuments, assisted in excavating them and cleaned them before they were re-set. Groups involved included Willard Camp, the Van Rensselaer Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and a good mix of neighbors. In addition to the conservation work, some cemetery clean-up was also done. On October 5, a large amount of tree waste and on-site and work-generated rubble was loaded onto a truck for disposal by a group of volunteers from the RPI Knights of Columbus Council 13635. They also assisted in excavating, cleaning and re-setting multiple monument.

During this round of work 55 monuments were conserved in New Mt. Ida Cemetery. With 63 conserved during the spring effort, the total for 2024 is 119 monuments!

Our final work party will be held during the Spring of 2025. At that time we will have expended our total ARPA allocation.

**Re-setting the original grave stone of William Christie, 4th NY, in New Mt. Ida Cemetery.**



# A Visit with U.S. Grant!



PDC McGuire, U.S. Grant and PDC Castler.

PDCs McGuire and Castler presented Ulysses S. Grant (great-great grandson of Gen. Grant) a commemorative coin of Gen. Thomas issued by the Col. George L. Willard Camp. Mr. Grant gave an informative talk on his family at Grant Cottage in Wilton, NY on July 26, 2024. He still receives about \$100.00 in royalties from Gen. Grant's memoirs.

# SUVCW Supporting Scouts

## Eagle Scout Certificate Program Col. George L. Willard CAMP #154

Name	Troop	Date
Michael Hanebuth	2055	16 Dec 2023
Rocco Servidio	29	24 Jan 2024
Justin McMenemy	13	23 Nov 2023
Samuel LaMere	4024	6 Mar 2024
Lars Poutsma	4	11 Oct 2024
Ryan Balseca	29	20 Jan 2024
Jared Marshall	485	9 Jan2 024
Zachary Finkel	4	16 Mar 2024
Yann Kermarrec	49	25 Nov 2023
Joshua Erenberg	174	20 Dec 2023
Jacob Erenberg	174	20 Dec 2023
Jake Gherardi	2	11 Oct 2023
Luke Reische	1	11 Sept 2023
Andy Bielicki	33	24 Jul 2023
Glenn Bryant	12401	18 Mar 2024
Vincent Dipierro	43	17 Feb 2024
Angus Mackenzie	25	24 Feb 2024
Nicholas Stewart	33	23 Mar 2024
Scott Patton Jr	6030	1 May 2024
Logan Solomon	2025	24 Feb 2024
Triston Sherman	369	
Nicolas Cavalluzzi	97	23 Mar 2024
Owen Litvak	97	20 Apr 2024
Lorenzo Montesino	97	20 Apr 2024
David Robles	2025	29 Jan 2024

**Congratulations to  
all the Eagle Scouts!!!**

# Update on the Hunt for Alligator "Jr."

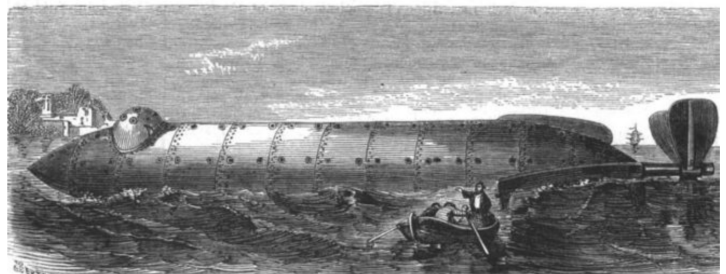
Results of the aerial magnetometer scans over a 37-acre area were posted to the web on October 7, 2024. The RETTEW report and an interpretation of the data are available at [www.navyandmarine.org/subhunt\\_results.htm](http://www.navyandmarine.org/subhunt_results.htm).

Two anomalies were discovered but one item appears to be the remains of an old bridge and not related to the hunt. The other signal has characteristic metal mass values in the range for Alligator Jr. Portions of the report are redacted because now that "something" has been found the folks involved in the project don't want intrusions at the site by "treasure hunters." Also, the mud and muck would pose a significant risk to those attempting to access the area.

Finally, the GoFundMe sites states:

*"... we also succeeded in achieving the longer-term goal of attracting the attention of a renowned underwater archaeologist who has worked on numerous sunken ships. He is keenly interested in picking up where our inexperience forces us to leave off."*

Next steps might involve ground penetrating radar to get an exact position and size of the object. That would then help support the ultimate step of excavation.



The 1859 salvage boat - Alligator Jr. The size is somewhat exaggerated by the artist.

## Upcoming Events - 2025

- 1 Feb. - Camp Meeting
- 2 Feb - 2nd Dept. Mid-Year Mtg.
- 1 Mar - Camp Meeting
- 4-5 Apr - Dept. Encampment - Utica
- 12 Apr - Camp Meeting
- 3 May - Camp Meeting