

Legion of Merit Program and Its Medal Become a Reality



With over a year of planning and numerous discussions, the concept of a Camp Legion of Merit award has become a reality. Starting back in 2009 the Brothers had discussed creating an award to encourage service to the SUVCW and the Camp. As in most organizations it is sometimes hard to get the manpower to get things done. Many felt we needed a system to encourage and reward service by the Brothers of the Camp.

At the October meeting on 10-1-2011 the medal for the Order of the Legion of Merit was presented to the Camp. As one can see from the photograph (medal at full size) it is a very beautiful award. With its bright red neck ribbon, 1.75 inch medallion and portrait of Col. George L. Willard it is an outstanding symbol of a Brother's commitment to service. As it appears in the photograph the medal depicts the first level of membership in the Legion, that is, the rank of "Legionnaire Third Class" and requires the accumulation of 3000 points for service to, or for, the Camp.

The original concept was around for some time before the first document was introduced to the Brothers on 11-6-2010 by the previous Camp Commander Robert C. Hensel. Since then numerous discussion have taken place about the award and the make-up of the system for accumulating points. In January 2011 a score card was given out to all members present at the monthly meeting. At the time it was decided that 100 points would be given for attendance at our regular meetings or short events and 200 points for approved activities of two hours or more. The Brothers use an honor system in assigning points and have another Camp member "sign off" on their card. At each level, and there are ten, the Brother will receive uniquely designed certificate. It will be the Brother's choice to purchase the medal which will sell for \$24.50. As the Brother goes up in levels, stars will be added and the ribbon color will change but the medal will remain the same.

The medal was struck by Northwest Territorial Mint in Dayton, NV (www.nwtmint.com) with Darrell Johnson at the mint assisting the medal's designer, Brother Robert P. Keough. Brother Keough solicited input and suggestions from Brothers Dzielwski and LeMay prior to final design submission to Northwest. At the October meeting Commander Dzielwski strongly encouraged Brothers to get involved with Camp activities and begin earning their way up the levels of the Legion of Merit.

Welcome New Members

Since June, 2011 we have added the following new members, let's make them feel welcome.

Name:	Ancestor:
Joseph M. Dziejewski	Private, John J. Owens, 14th ME
David J. Dziejewski	Private, John J. Owens, 14th ME
John B. Swartwout Jr.	Private, Joseph R. Meredith, 107 PA
Frank P. Swartwout	Private, Joseph R. Meredith, 107 PA



Photo by: Dee Dziejewski

New members of the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154, Joseph M. Dziejewski, David J. Dziejewski, John B. Swartwout Jr. and his brother Frank P. Swartwout are sworn in by Brother George Malinoski. This was a proud day for our Camp Commander David Dziejewski because two of the new inductees were his son David J. and his grandson Joseph M. Dziejewski.

Three Brothers Part of an Award Winning Event's Committee

The Department of New York Sesquicentennial Committee, which includes three members of the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154, was awarded the Albert Woolson Award. It was given to the Department of NY Committee by C-in-C Brad Schall at the National Encampment of the SUVCW in Reston, VA. The award was for the Colonel Elmer E. Ellsworth Event which was considered an Outstanding Sesquicentennial Event. This award is named after Albert Woolson, of Duluth, MN, who was the last surviving member of the Union Army and GAR. He died on August 2, 1956 at the age of 109. He joined the Army as a drummer in October, 1864 and he was discharged in September, 1865. May he rest in peace. The Camp Brothers on the committee included David Dziejewski CC, Raymond LeMay III PCC and Robert Keough.

Did You Know?

Albert Woolson was the model for the Grand Army of the Republic monument (Photo on the right) at Gettysburg, PA. The monument was created by Dr. Avarn Tennyson Fairbanks. The photo inset shows the GAR medal on the monument.

U.S. Grant Remembered

On August 6, 2011 Brother Jerry Orton and Boy Scouts from Troop 24 of Wilton, NY raised the American flag at Grant's Cottage. Also present at the event were a number of local residents in period dress. This event marked the 126th anniversary of U.S. Grant's death at his summer home on Mt. McGregor near Saratoga Springs, NY. Ulysses S. Grant died on Thursday, July 23, 1885, at the age of 63. After lying in state in Saratoga, Grant's body was placed on a funeral train that traveled south from Albany, New York, and passed through the West Point station of Garrison, across the Hudson River from the Academy. As it passed through West Point the whole undergraduate battalion, with Cadet Captain John J. Pershing at its head, stood at present arms. The train carrying Grant's body was draped in black and slowly continued on its way to New York City. Grant's remains are beside his wife, in New York City's Riverside Park, in the largest mausoleum in North America -- Grant's Tomb.



Brother Jerry Orton salutes while Boy Scouts from Troop 24, Wilton, NY raise the American Flag at Grant's Cottage.



Photo by: Mario P. Labot

Current Patriotic Instructor Report

Wauhatchie - Brown's Ferry Tennessee:
October 28-29, 1863

Robert H. Fickies, Camp 154 Patriotic Instructor

In an effort to relieve Union forces besieged in Chattanooga, Major General George H. Thomas and Major General Ulysses S. Grant initiated the "Cracker Line Operation" on October 26, 1863. This operation required the opening of the road to Chattanooga from Brown's Ferry on the Tennessee River with a simultaneous advance up Lookout Valley, securing the Kelley's Ferry Road.

Union Chief Engineer, Military Division of the Mississippi, Brig. General William F. "Baldy" Smith, with Brig. General John B. Turchin's and Brig. General William B. Hazen's 1st and 2nd brigades, 3rd Division, IV Army Corps, was assigned the task of establishing the Brown's Ferry bridgehead. Meanwhile, Major General Joseph Hooker, with three divisions, marched from Bridgeport through Lookout Valley towards Brown's Ferry from the south.

At 3:00 AM, on October 27, portions of Hazen's brigade embarked upon pontoons and floated around Moccasin Bend to Brown's Ferry. Turchin's brigade took a position on Moccasin Bend across from Brown's Ferry. Upon landing, Hazen secured the bridgehead and then positioned a pontoon bridge across the river, allowing Turchin to cross and take position on his right. Hooker, while his force passed through Lookout Valley on October 28, detached Brig. General John W. Geary's division at Wauhatchie Station, a stop on the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad, to protect the line of communications to the south as well as the road west to Kelley's Ferry.

Observing the Union movements on the 27th and 28th, Confederate Lt. General James Longstreet and General Braxton Bragg decided to mount a night attack on Wauhatchie Station. Although the attack was scheduled for 10:00 PM on the night of October 28, confusion delayed it until midnight. Surprised by the attack, Geary's division, at Wauhatchie Station, formed into a V-shaped battle line.

Hearing the din of battle, Hooker, at Brown's Ferry, sent Major General Oliver Otis Howard with two XI Army Corps divisions to Wauhatchie Station as reinforcements. As more and more Union troops arrived, the Confederates fell back to Lookout Mountain.

The Federals now had their window to the outside and could receive supplies, weapons, ammunition, and reinforcements via the Cracker Line.

Relatively few night engagements occurred during the Civil War; Wauhatchie is one of the most significant.

Gravestone Dedication for Civil War Soldier

John Hilton, Troy resident and member of the Col. Willard Camp 154 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, spent over one year working on replacing the broken and weather-worn gravestone of Corporal Michael Delker of the 169th Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry. Companies A through E of the 169th NYVI were mustered into service in Troy, NY on September 25th 1862 with additional recruiting done later that year in Staten Island. Corporal Delker, died June 10, 1864 as a result of wounds received in the Civil War battle at Cold Harbor, Virginia. Aided by Alysia Hamilton and Cameron Smith, the three volunteers were able to replace a new stone at his burial site in New Mt. Ida Cemetery. A brief ceremony to honor Corporal Delker and to dedicate the new grave stone was held at the cemetery in Troy on Saturday, September 10, 2011.



David Dziewulski CC and George Malinoski read from SUCVW Ritual and Ceremonies book while others look on. Brothers present were Charles Berns, Ray LeMay III PCC and Leo McGuire. Others include Brother John Hilton (far left) and volunteers Cameron Smith holding musket and Alysia Hamilton.

In Memoriam

Jacqueline Louise Hanson Palimas

TROY – Jacqueline Louise Hanson Palimas, 79, of Troy entered into eternal rest on Sept. 5, 2011 surrounded by her family. Jacqueline was the mother of Dee Dziewulski who is the wife of Camp Commander David Dziewulski, the Grandmother of Brother David Dziewulski Jr. and the Great Grandmother of Brother Joseph Dziewulski.

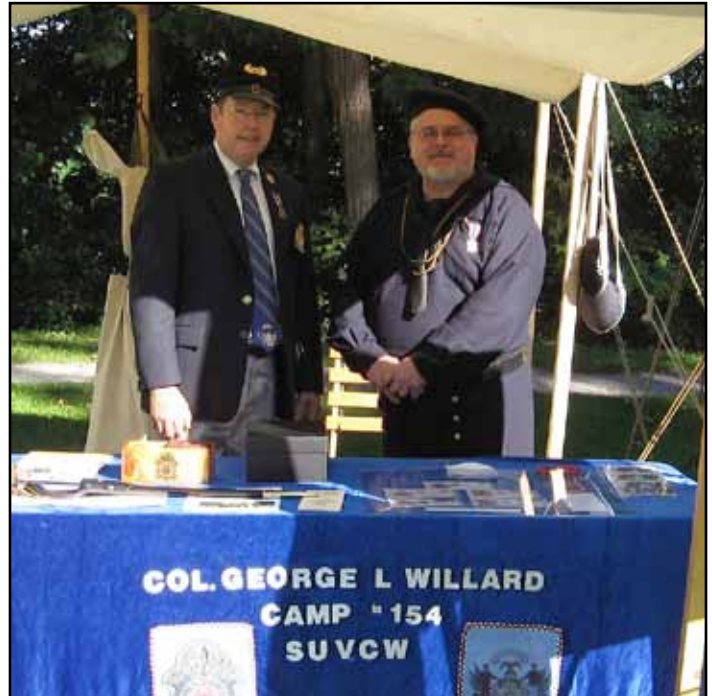
Camp 154 News at a Glance



Five Camp Brothers preformed at the living history encampment in Averill Park, NY organized by Morgan's Artillery on October 1st. Pictured are Joseph M. Dziewulski, D J Dziewulski, David Dziewulski CC, and Frank P. Swartwout (not shown is Brother Keough).



With the Camp Flag flapping in the breeze, David Dziewulski CC talks with others attending the Schuyler Flatts Civil War Heritage Days in Menands, NY on August 21, 2010.



Brother Tim Mabee with Camp Commander David Dziewulski manning the Camp's Fly at Saratoga Springs for the Civil War Encampment on September 18th. Brother Lance Ingmire, organizer of the Saratoga event, estimated that about 3300 to 3500 persons visited the event over the weekend. It was a great time to make contacts and find new members.

I have had some very nice feedback on the Guidon. It has come from Camp members and from outside the Camp.

Thank you, Robert P. Keough, your editor

Col. George L. Willard Camp # 154 Events coming up for 2011 & 2012

Month	Date	Event / Location
November	5th	November meeting - Election of Officers
December	10th	"NOTE DATE CHANGE" December meeting - Installation of Officers

November 5, **Iron Jacks** perform at Gallupville in a benefit concert for the flood victims of Wright. 7 PM. Limited tickets. Please call Paula Schafer (7AM - 3PM) (518) 872-0199.

2012 Schuyler Flatts - SAVE THE DATE ! - Maximum Camp Effort ! Civil War Heritage Days, August 18-19, 2012. Being a 150th Anniversary Commemoration of the USS *Monitor* and the Hudson River Valley & the Land Battles of 2nd Bull Run and Antietam. Please mark your calendars.

Brothers Use The Web and Visit These Sites:

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

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