

The Guidon

P.O. Box 13681 - Albany, NY 12212-3681 - IN OUR 115TH YEAR - www.GLWILLARD154.ORG

Winter 2013 - 2014



New York State Volunteers Remembered

This year was the 57th Annual Remembrance Day at the Gettysburg National Military Park. The 2013 event also marked the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg address. The week-long celebration began on Dedication Day, November 19 and ended on Remembrance Day, November 23. Thousands from all over our country participated in the many events of the week including the Annual Remembrance Day Parade that started on Liberty Street in the Village and ended at the Gettysburg National Military Park. National flags were placed on the 1800 graves of the Volunteers from the Empire State who died there. From the photograph above one can see the rows and rows of National and State flags. The New York State monument is on the far left of the picture. The monument is 94 feet high with a base that is 28 feet 8 inches square. At the top is a sixteen-foot high statue depicting the personification of New York State holding a wreath over the graves of her soldiers. It was designed by sculptor Caspar Buberl and was constructed using granite from Maine at a cost of \$59,095.30. This translates into 1.5 million in current day dollars. It was dedicated on July 2, 1893 to all of the New York units who collectively suffered about 6,700 casualties during the three-day battle that ended in a decisive Union victory. This battle was the high water mark of the Confederacy and thankfully never again would the South be able to mount a campaign of this magnitude.

A number of Camp brothers were present at the 2013 commemoration. Brother Jerry Orton paid his respects with other members of the New York State Allied Orders. Brothers Victor Bent and Richard Straight of the 125th NYVI Regiment were also present along with members of their unit. The leader of the 125th and the namesake of our Camp, Col. George L. Willard, was killed at Gettysburg on the second day of the battle.



Members of the Allied Orders, including Brother Orton, met at to the NYS memorial at Gettysburg National Cemetery at 4:15 p.m. as the sun was casting its last rays.



Reenactors from the 125th NYVI Regiment, including Brothers Victor Bent and Richard Straight, stand in front of the 125th's monument at Gettysburg.

Wreaths Across America



Photo by: Jen Megias - PGRNY Regions 4/5

Brothers John Swartwout, George Malinoski and Leo McGuire fold the 34 star flag after the wreath presentation at the grave of the unknown Union soldier.

With the temperature at 14° and a sharp wind coming across the field hundreds turned out to lay wreaths on the graves of those interred at the Saratoga National Cemetery. Wreaths Across America is a national event started by Morrill Worcester in 1992 and is meant to honor our deceased veterans. In 2010, Wreaths Across America and the national network of volunteers laid over 220,000 memorial wreaths at 545 locations in the United States and beyond. As part of this year's event a special service was conducted for the unknown Civil War Union soldier from New York that died at the Battle of Antietam in 1863. Commander Robert Keough of the Col. George L. Willard Camp, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, emplaced the wreath donated by the Patriot Guard Riders. After wreath was laid, and a hand salute given, Chaplain George Malinoski lead the Camp Officers in a modified SUCVW service for graveside ceremonies which was then followed by the folding and presentation of a 34 star American flag. Brothers folding the flag included Leo McGuire, John Swartwout and Richard Straight. This flag had been flown from Antietam to Saratoga on the motorcycle of one of the Patriot Guard Riders escorting the casket from Antietam to Saratoga cemetery. The folded flag was then presented to Gold Star Mother Bev Osborn. In 2010 her son Benjamin was killed in action in Konar, Afghanistan.



Willard Camp Commander Robert Keough places the Patriot Guard Riders' wreath on the grave of the unknown Civil War Union veteran from New York.

Saratoga Encampment

Willard Camp participated in the Annual Saratoga Springs Civil War Encampment on September 14-15, 2013. Participation ranged from hosting, to cooking, displaying artifacts and providing music by various Brothers. This is always a great and well attended fall family-friendly event held at Congress Park in downtown Saratoga Springs. Willard Camp always look forward to attending.



Brother David Dziewulski cooks with the US Naval Landing Party.



Brother Ingmire heads up the organization that put on this event each year.



Brothers Frank and John Swartwout make a stop at Sanitary Commission's tent.

2014 Camp Officers Initiated

At the Camp's December meeting at St. Agnes Cemetery in Menands, NY the 2014 Camp Officers were initiated by Past Camp Commander David Dziewulski:

The following are this year's elected Willard Camp Officers:

Camp Commander - Brother Robert P. Keough
Senior Vice Commander - Brother David M. Dziewulski
Junior Vice-Commander - Brother Leo McGuire
Secretary/Treasurer - Brother George Malinoski
Camp Council - Brothers Paul Grady, David Dziewulski and Raymond LeMay III.

The Camp Commander has appointed the following Brothers to their posts:

Brother George Malinoski - Chaplain
Brother Richard Straight - Patriotic Instructor
Brother John Swartwout - Guide
Brother Paul Cooney - Guard
TBD - Color Bearer
Brother Jerry Orton - Camp Historian
Brother Rich Saunders - Eagle Scout Coordinator
Brother Leo McGuire - JROTC Coordinator
TBD - Graves
Editor of the Guidon - Brother Robert Keough
Special Camp Liaison for Gen. Thomas' grave - Brother David Dziewulski

As Commander of the Col. George L. Willard Camp #154 I would like to thank all the Brothers for support and help they have extended to me over the past year. I look forward to working with you on all of our upcoming Camp projects.

In F C & L, Bob Keough, Willard Camp Commander



2014 Willard Camp Officers from left to right. George Malinoski Secretary/Treasurer and Chaplain, David Dziewulski Senior Vice Commander, Leo McGuire Junior Vice Commander and Robert Keough Camp Commander.

Gen. Thomas' Funeral

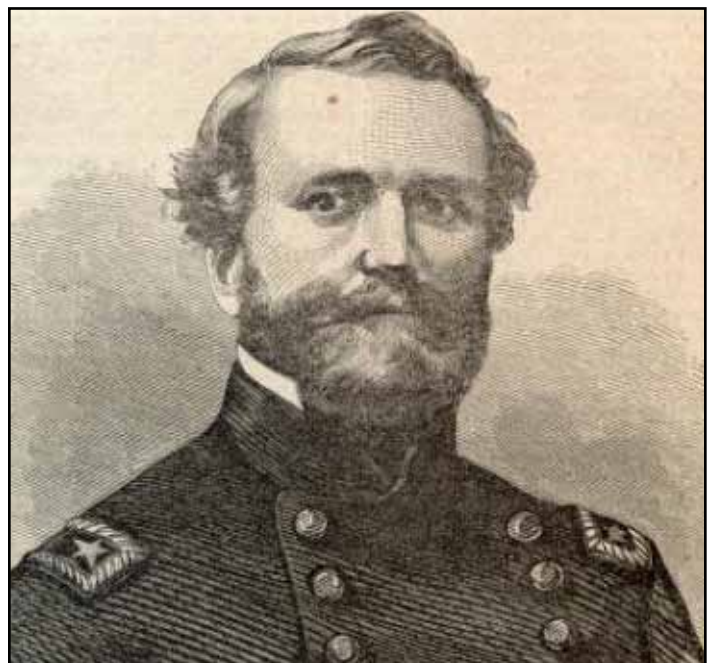


The casket of Major General George Thomas is carried into a vault at Oakwood Cemetery in Troy, NY on April 8, 1870.

An interesting illustration has come to light. While conducting research it was discovered that *Harper's Weekly* ran a full front page story on the funeral of General Thomas in its April 23, 1870 issue. The article included this woodcut of this scene at tOakwood Cemetery. According to *Harper's*, President Grant, General Sherman, General Hooker, and many other distinguished men were present to honor his memory. The story states that his remains were placed in the Kellogg vault. There is a vault nearby his grave but it does not look like the one in the illustration depicted in *Harper's Weekly*. More research is needed to identify the correct vault. There was also a very interesting article on the funeral in the *New York Times* of April 9, 1870. If you would like to view these articles you may go to the following web sites:

Times: <http://blog.timesunion.com/rittner/capital-district-civil-war-series-%E2%80%93-a-misplaced-%E2%80%93-crock%E2%80%93-at-oakwood/1516/>

Harper's: http://generalthomas.com/funeral_of_thomas.htm



Major General George Henry Thomas aka "The Rock of Chickamauga."

One Man's Civil War

Joseph R. Meredith's first enlistment in Company D, 107th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment was a short one. It lasted from March 2, 1862 to May 30, 1862. He was discharged at Manassas, VA via a Surgeon's Certificate because of epilepsy. This did not end his military career. On February 17, 1865 he reenlisted in Company L, 13th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry know as The Irish Dragoons.

Just after he joined the unit they moved to Wilmington, NC and advanced on Goldsboro. On March 21 they occupied the town. The 13th PA was at the surrender of General Johnston and his Army at Bennett's house on April 26, 1865. Joseph was mustered out with his Company on July 14, 1865.

He was born in Benvenue, Dauphin County PA on July 26, 1840. Before the war he worked for his father in general merchandise until he was 14 years old. He was then a boat driver for eight years. In 1859 he became the pupil of the Rev. Dr. A. H. Sembower in Altoona, PA. On June 23, 1861 he married Miss Mary C. Hiney and served his community as a teacher until his enlistment.

After the war he ran a store but he was called to the ministry and was licensed in 1868 at the Zion United Brethren Church, of the Halifax Circuit. He was very active in numerous locations across Pennsylvania until illness forced his retirement at Reading, PA in 1907. His life came to an end on May 6, 1910. He was 70 years old and survived by his wife and six children. The Rev. Meredith was a member of Patriotic Order Sons of America (POS of A) in New Holland, PA and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) in Annville, PA.

He was the Great Great Grandfather of Brothers Frank and John Swartwout of our Camp.

Willard Stone Cleaned



Alysia Hamilton, a true friend of the Camp, has reported that she and Brother John Hilton cleaned Col. George L. Willard Gravestone in Oakwood Cemetery, Troy, NY

They Did Not Return



On the right is a monument in St. Mary's Cemetery, Schuylerville, NY dedicated to locals who served during the Civil War but whose remains were never returned. Twenty soldiers are listed by name and the list ends with the statement "... and all other comrades buried in unknown graves." GAR detail on the left.

Col. George L. Willard Camp # 154 Events coming up for 2013

| Month | Date | Event / Location |
|----------|--------|---|
| February | 1 | Camp Meeting St. Agnes 10:00 a.m. Menands, NY |
| March | 1 | Camp Meeting St. Agnes 10:00 a.m. Menands, NY |
| April | 5 | Camp Meeting St. Agnes 10:00 a.m. Menands, NY |
| May | 3 | Camp Meeting St. Agnes 10:00 a.m. Menands, NY |
| | 16 -18 | Department of New York Encampment Holiday Inn Rochester Airport, 911 Brooks Ave. - Rochester, NY 14624 |

Brothers Use The Web and Visit 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/>

NYS Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee

<http://www.nycivilwar150.org/>