

Our  
116th  
Year



**CAMP OFFICERS**

Camp Commander  
Leo McGuire

Senior Vice  
Commander  
John Swartwout

Junior Vice  
Commander  
Richard Straight

Secretary/Treasurer  
George Malinoski

Camp Council  
Robert Keough  
David Dziewulski  
Ray LeMay III

Chaplain  
George Malinoski

Patriotic Instructor  
Richard Straight

Guide  
Tim Mabee

Guard  
Paul Cooney

Color Bearer  
Graves Registration  
James King

Eagle Scout  
Coordinator  
Brian Castler

# The Guidon

P.O. Box 13681 Albany, NY 12212-3681 [www.GLWILLARD154.org](http://www.GLWILLARD154.org)  
Spring 2015

## 2015 Memorial Day, a Week to Remember

As part of the Memorial Day events at Oakwood Cemetery, the Colonel George L. Willard Camp 154, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War dedicated the new signs directing visitors to the General Thomas gravesite on the Kellogg Family plot. The dedication took place immediately after the annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at Veterans' Circle by the Friends of Oakwood Cemetery and the Veterans of Lansingburgh.

At the Thomas gravesite Mr. Michael Barrett, Director of the Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway, presented introductory comments on the life and career of Gen. Thomas. Camp Commander Leo McGuire offered the opening to original Order #11 describing Decoration Day. Department Commander Ray LeMay III added remarks recognizing the Willard Camp's work as well as the Department of NY's history of involvement with the project.

Finally project liaison, Brother Dziewulski, made dedicatory comments that included a brief reiteration of the relationship between the Oakwood Cemetery and the SUVCW. Initially the Department of New York adopted the gravesite. However, work began in earnest when Willard Camp also was able to adopt the site with the support of Department Order #6, by then Commander Albanese (2012), and the completion of a Memorandum of Understanding among the Cemetery, Friends of Oakwood Cemetery and Willard Camp in 2013. Attendees were escorted by the U.S. Marine veterans of the Leathernecks Motorcycle Club and the 125th NY Volunteer Infantry reenacting group closed the ceremony with a musket firing salute.

This dedication was supposed to have occurred in the September 2014, shortly after the emplacement of the signs, but a busy Fall and horrible Winter prevented the ceremony from occurring. With a little patience and careful planning, much like "Ol' Slow Trot" himself -- a nickname for Thomas because of his extensive preparation and deliberate actions -- we finally came to the point of completion for this project.

With the permission of Oakwood Cemetery, Willard Camp also announced that the next project for the gravesite will be the assessment of the beech tree that has threatened the grave markers of the Kellogg plot, the Thomas monument and the cast iron fence surrounding the plot. It is likely that the tree will be removed. Details will be forthcoming about fund-raising.

On the traditional Memorial Day, May 30th members of the Camp gathered at Albany Rural Cemetery and conducted services at the GAR plot. From there they moved to Oakwood

and conducted services at the Soldier and Sailor plot, the Thomas, Willard and Geer graves. The last stop was the Cohoes GAR monument to form a Color Guard. (see story on page 4)



Ray LeMay III DC along with Brothers John Swartwout, Leo McGuire CC, Vince Jackimo, Joseph Dziewulski, and David Dziewulski PCC, at the Thomas event.



Brothers of the Camp stand-by as Junior Vice Commander Richard Straight reads the Mexican War poem "Bivouac of the Dead" on May 30, 2015.



Camp members were on hand at the GAR monument in Cohoes, NY along with many others for the kick off of the new Cohoes Veterans' Park.



# 132<sup>nd</sup> Department of NY Encampment; Congratulations Brother Ray!

An Encampment to remember. Brother Ray LeMay III is elected the new Department of New York Commander. The Encampment seemed to go by in a flash after all the time and effort the Camp's Brothers spent in the run up to the event. The Friday night Campfire featured an open house at the New York State Military Museum followed by a great lecture on Generals Grant, Granger and Thomas by author Robert Conner. Saturday started with the Allied Orders' memorial followed by the Department's annual business meeting. Reports were read and accepted, proposals made and elections held. That evening the Grand Banquet was held with great food, kind remarks and numerous fund raising efforts. The next morning over forty individuals met at Greenridge Cemetery to pay respects at the graves of GAR members. The Schenectady High's AFJROTC served as color guard, the 125th NYVI fired a volley that was followed by taps. So ended the 132<sup>nd</sup> Department of New York Encampment in Saratoga Springs, NY. It should be noted that brothers Zeilman, Straight

and Keough recieved certificates of recognition for their efforts during the past year. Saratoga Springs, NY was a great Encampment!



Past Department of New York Commander George Weinmann addresses remarks to the dinner guests at the packed Saturday evening Grand Banquet.



Brother David Dziewulski, PCC talks with author Robert Conner at the New York State Museum just before his presentation on May 1, 2015.



Willard Camp Commander Leo McGuire and Department of New York Commander Ray LeMay III present wreaths at the GAR monument.



Newly elected and appointed members of the Department of New York pose with Department Commander Ray LeMay III in the center on May 2, 2015

Photo: Jerry Orton



Members of the 125th NYVI fire a volley in front of the GAR monument on May 3, 2015 at Greenridge Cemetery in Saratoga Springs, NY.



## New Department Commander



Willard Camp Brother Ray LeMay III become the new Department of New York Commander at the 132<sup>nd</sup> Department Encampment in Saratoga Springs, NY.

On May 2, 2015 Ray LeMay III was elected Commander of the Department of New York. Ray has been a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for 13 years and has held almost every office in the Camp including Col. George L. Willard Camp Commander from 2006 to 2010. He has recently completed a Bachelor's degree, at Empire State College, in History. The Brothers of the Camp want to congratulate him on his election and will assist him during his commandship.

### In Memoriam

**Brother Peter R. Greenwalt**

**Past Commander-in-Chief  
SUVCW**

**passed away on April 6, 2015**

**He was 87 years old  
at the time of his death**

## Earth Day

Once more on Earth Day, April 25, 2015, our Brothers gathered to help Alysia Hamilton clear brush and repair stones at New Mr. Ida Cemetery in Troy, NY.



From left to right Brothers John Swartwout, John Hilton, Leo McGuire CC, John Hilton Sr. and Robert Keough PCC, pose for an Earth Day Photograph.



Brother Swartwout looks on as Sigma Chi Fraternity Brothers help lift and repair one of two large stones that had toppled over last years.



A large pile of brush is ready for the City of Troy to remove from New Mt. Ida Cemetery. This is one of many piles collected.

## Cohoes Project Becomes a Reality

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) monument in West End Park Cohoes is to become the center piece of a new veterans' park. After years of planning the details were made public on May 30, 2015, "Decoration Day," with a gathering of citizens, politicians, veterans and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War on hand. The original GAR monument which was dedicated in 1910 is located on a former city cemetery. It will be combined with walkways, benches, plantings, flag poles, markers and two Civil War era mortars to become a memorial to all those from the City of Cohoes that have served their country. On hand were U.S. Rep. Paul Tonko, Cohoes Mayor George Primeau Sr. and Randy Koniowka, deputy clerk of the Albany County Legislature. The project is expected to cost \$100,000.00.



From this artist's rendition one can see how the new veterans' park will look when finished in 2016. The GAR monument is at the heart of the project.

## General Thomas Ribbon



Brother Vince Jackimo wearing the General Thomas ribbon at the Department of New York 132<sup>nd</sup> Encampment May 2, 2015.

Brothers Ray LeMay III and David Dzielwski created a beautiful ribbon to commemorate the 145th anniversary of the Death of Major General George H. Thomas on March 28, 2015. The ribbon has a piece of wood from the tree on the Kellogg Plot attached. The ribbons were made available at the Department of NY Encampment and the May 23, 2015 dedication of the new Thomas signage at Oakwood Cemetery in Troy, NY. The funds from the sale of these ribbons will be used for the next stage of Thomas project. These limited edition (45 in number) ribbons are numbered and come with a certificate of authenticity, which is also numbered.

## Col. George L. Willard Camp # 154 Coming Events 2015

Month	Date	Event / Location
June	6	Lincoln Luncheon Brown's Brewing Co. Troy, NY
July	2	Casual Dinner Meeting (free pizza) Brown's Brewing Co. Troy, NY
	25	Grant's Remembrance Day Grant's Cottage, Milton, NY
August	6 15 - 16	Casual Dinner Meeting Schuyler Flats Civil War Days
September	5	Camp Meeting Grace Fellowship Church 10:00 a.m. Latham, NY

## 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>

**SUVCW National Headquarters**

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

**NYS Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee**

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