

The Guidon

P.O. Box 13681 - Albany, NY 12212-3681 - IN OUR 112TH YEAR - www.GLWILLARD154.ORG

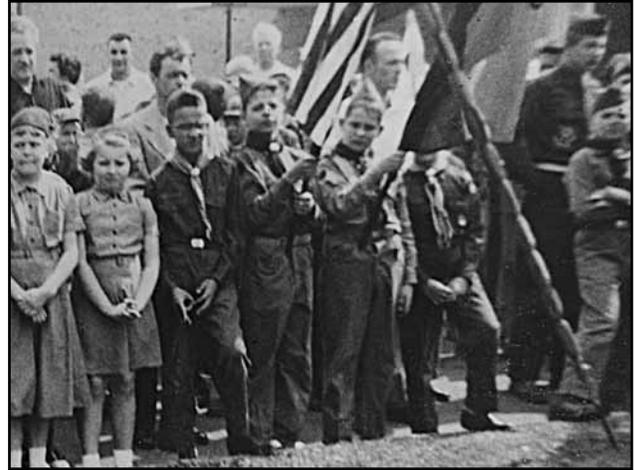
Summer 2011

Memorial Day 2011 and now I understand

Robert Keough, The Guidon Editor

In 1954, as a Boy Scout of 12, I was allowed to carry the troop flag in the Memorial Day parade for the first time. We formed up at the local American Legion Post 1276 and marched up James Street about 8 blocks to the local veterans monument. When I was quite young the monument was made of wood and it had my great uncle's, my father's and all his cousins' names on it but by the time I marched with the flag it had been replaced by a granite one dedicated to all veterans. I can remember being there and I know things were being said but I can't remember what was being said.

Too many years have passed since then and much has happened in my life including becoming a veteran myself. This Memorial Day standing, for the first time, with my Brothers from the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154 of the Son of Union Veterans of the Civil War, I had become a different person. We were at the Soldier's plots at Albany Rural Cemetery and the Soldier's plot and the grave site of Col. Willard at Oakwood Cemetery in Troy, NY. Bathed in the warm sun at these cemeteries, I listened to the words of our Camp Commander as he read the service and made his comments. This time, facing the rows of Civil War graves, I was hearing the words. It made me reflect on a



Great, Great, Great Grandfather, a Great, Great Grandfather, a Great Grandmother who sent two sons to war, one my grandfather and a father who had come before me.

These men were all veterans and had given of themselves to their nation. After their service they all returned to their civilian lives and continued to be good citizens, raising families and living the "American Dream." Times have changed in our nation but taking time to remember those who served and to continue to honor all their sacrifices is important. We need to pass-on to future generations this sense of honor and a desire to participate in their Nation's future.



Camp Commander Dave Dziewulski reads Memorial Day service as Brothers Charles Berns, Bob Keough, Don Zeilman, Ray LeMay III, Paul Grady, George Malinoski and Bill Halpin stand at attention at the Albany Rural Cemetery in the sun on a beautiful Memorial Day.

This color photograph by Michael Watkins Salkirk, NY

Remembering Ellsworth !

David Dziewulski, CC and Raymond LeMay III, PCC

On May 24, 1861, While removing a large Confederate flag that had been flying over an inn in Alexandria, Virginia the 24-year-old Colonel Ellsworth of the 11th NYSV was shot and instantly killed . He was a 'student' and observer of French Zouave military units in the Algiers and he became world famous for his drill team. In 1860, while in Springfield Illinois, he studied law in Lincoln's office and also helped him with his presidential campaign. Ellsworth was a frequent visitor to the White House and befriended both Willie and Tad Lincoln. After his death Col. Ellsworth's remains would lay in state in the White House; the passing of this family friend deeply affected Mr. Lincoln. It was estimated that 10,000 citizens in New York City viewed his body. His remains then made their way by steamboat up the Hudson River to Albany, NY where they were available for viewing at the Capitol. The entourage then made its way by special train from Troy to his hometown of Mechanicville for burial. "Remember Ellsworth !" would become a rallying cry for the Union cause starting with the First Battle of Bull Run.

On May 15, 2011 in honor of Ellsworth's sacrifice, and after a year-and-a-half of planning by the Dept. of New York and several months of fine-tuning with the help of the Col George L. Willard Camp #154, this Signature Sesquicentennial Event successfully was held in the Hudson View Cemetery in Mechanicville New York. The weather was like the day of Col. Ellsworth's funeral on May 24, 1861. Rain dogged the attendees but none were daunted by the weather. An estimated crowd of over 500 people attended in addition to Gold Star Mothers; veteran's groups; re-enactors that included a number of Zouaves (Rockford Grays, Salem Zouaves, 5th NY Duryeas Zouaves, and 14th Brooklyn); several Sons of Union Veterans Camps including Willard, Worden, Sydney, and Tanner Camps as well as other representatives from other Departments.

Dignitaries included Rep. Chris Gibson (R-Kinderhook), State Senator Roy McDonald (R-Saratoga), The Mayor of Mechanicville, the Honorable Anthony J. Sylvester, several historians and museum curators. Department Commander Jeff Albanese was the master-of-ceremonies. Post-event comments from individuals and organizations were very positive; all were pleased with the success of the event in spite of the weather.



Many of the Memorial wreaths placed on Ellsworth's grave by local organization at the 150th re-enactment of his funeral at the Hudson View Cemetery.

Distinguished Service Awards

At the 128th Department of NY Encampment three brothers from the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154 received Distinguished Service Awards. Brothers Ray LeMay III PCC, Dave Dziewulski CC and Robert Keough each received the award from D. Brad Schall, CinC SUVCW, for their organizational efforts on the Col. Elmer Ellsworth event May 15, 2011 at Hudson View Cemetery in Mechanicville, NY. This was the second National Signature event of the Order for the Sesquicentennial . Their work included ribbon and program design, arranging motel accommodations, organizing re-enactment groups, patriotic organizations, veterans, firefighters, police and other civic participants. They became the liaison between the Department of NY and the City of Mechanicville for the logistics of the event. This including finding a wagon to carry the coffin, a 35-star Civil War era flag, the presentation of wreaths, parade sequencing and a 21-gun rifle salute and three-volley canon salute. The certificates for each Brother read in part: "For his outstanding service and leadership on the Department of New York Sesquicentennial Committee. For organizing, planning and execution of the Colonel Elmer Ellsworth SUVCW Signature event. For promoting the story of Colonel Elmer Ellsworth. His dedication and diligent work has made a difference."



CinC Schall read from the Distinguished Service Award he presented to six Brothers including Department of NY Commander Jeffrey Albanese PCC.

Wilke still Sounding Taps

May 14, 2011 saw the opening of the North Star Underground Railroad Museum and the Town of Chesterfield Heritage Center. The center is located in the restored Herbert Estes home. Estes was a Civil War veteran and superintendent of the AuSable Horse Nail Co. The work of restoration was undertaken by the North Country Underground Railroad Historical Association who's mission is to restore national consciousness of the "Champlain Line" of the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad was an informal network of secret routes and safe houses used by 19th-century black slaves, from the Southern states, to escape to free Northern states and Canada with the aid of abolitionists and allies who were sympathetic to their cause. Many dignitaries were on hand for the ribbon cutting including Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward, Major Phil Estes the great-great-grandson of the home's builder, Jerry Morrow, Town of Chesterfield supervisor and many others. In remembrance of their ancestors and those who have fallen, taps was played by Lynn Hebert Wilke. Wilke, at 81, is one of the oldest members of the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War located in Albany, NY.



Brother and bugler Lynn Hebert Wilke is still active in many local events. Here dressed in Union Blue after playing Taps.

Current Patriotic Instructor Report

A Busy Afternoon at Miss Shead's School for Young Ladies

Robert H. Fickies, Camp 154 Patriotic Instructor

For many years during the mid-nineteenth century Miss Carrie Shead ran a school for young ladies in the family home on the Chambersburg Pike, just west of the sleepy little town of Gettysburg in southern central Pennsylvania. Then, on the afternoon of July 1, 1863, the Battle of Gettysburg engulfed her home, as Union forces began to fall back from Seminary Ridge, just to the west. As the tired troops retreated on Gettysburg, some of them took shelter in the Shead

House. One such was Col. Charles Wheelock of the 97th New York.

Wheelock ran into the house, closely followed by several Confederate soldiers intent on taking him prisoner. He fled down the basement, but the Rebels – and Miss Shead – followed him. Cornering the good colonel, a Confederate sergeant demanded that Wheelock give up his sword.

The latter refused. Before the sergeant could take it, a second group of Rebels came thundering down the stairs, herding some Yankee prisoners before them. After a moment's confusion the sergeant renewed his demand for Wheelock's sword. But it was gone, taken, Wheelock said, by one of the other Confederate soldiers. The sergeant went off angrily, deprived of his precious souvenir. Wheelock was later herded out of the house with the other prisoners. Soon after, Wheelock managed to escape. Several days later he returned to the Shead house to pay his compliments to Carrie and recover his sword, which she had hidden under her skirt.

The Shead house was crowded that day in July. Pvt. Asa S. Hardman of the 3rd Indiana Cavalry had fought all morning along Seminary Ridge. As was the case with many another soldier that afternoon, the Shead house provided him with temporary shelter. He too was taken prisoner, but unlike Wheelock, was unable to elude his captors. Eventually exchanged, Hardman also paid a return visit to the Sheads, so that he could marry Carrie's sister Louisa.

Welcome New Members

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

Name:	Ancestor:
Philip S. Poling - April	Bugler Squire Shedd
Samuel E. Poling - April	Bugler Squire Shedd
Peter J. Connors - May	Private Michael Buttler
John Hulse - May	Private Cornelius Reiley
Gary W. Rodd - May	Landsman P. Solomon Rodd
Kevin Titus - May	Private Edward Ryan
Keith Welch - May (reinstated)	Private Nelson f. Ellsworth
Patrick Reilley - June	Private Roswell Corlew



At the Troy Civil War Heritage Days George Malinoski, Camp 154's Chaplain, read from the Order's Ritual and Ceremonies manual at Patrick Reilly's SUVCW initiation while Camp Commander Dave Dziewulski looks on. Eight Camp 154 Brothers attended the Day's events.

Camp News at a Glance



On May 28, 2011, George Willard L. Camp 154 Brothers were given the honor of raise the National Colors at the of Green County Sesquicentennial kick-off program in Catskill, NY. Attending were Brothers Berns, Dziewulski, Malinoski and LeMay shown above plus Brothers Keough and Walter.



Camp 154 Brother Lance Ingmire talks with Mark Twain, who was the evening 's entrainment, at the Saratoga Springs fund raisers to benefit Grant' Cottage, the NY State Military Museum and the NY State Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee. Other Camp 154 Brothers attending were David M. Dziewulski CC, Robert P. Keough and Robert H. Walter. The 77th Regimental Balladeers were also on hand to play for the benefit of the 150 guests attending the gala.



Camp 154 Brothers Robert H. Walter, Dave M. Dziewulski, CC, Robert P. Keough and Ray M. LeMay III PCC were in attendance at the opening of the Ron Soucy's Flag Collection display at the Watervliet Historical Society. The Brothers formed the Color Guard for the official exhibit ribbon cutting on July 9, 2011.

On Friday June 3, 2011 a large group assembled at St. Agnes Cemetery in Menads, NY to honor Civil War Corp. Francis A. McCotter received a headstone for the first time. The ceremony opened with Brother Rick Touchette, Director of Catholic Dioceses Cemeteries, introducing the events Master of Ceremonies Mark Bodnar, local Civil War Historian. Other notables included Assemblyman Jack McEneny the keynote speaker, Albany County Executive Michael Breslin who read a Proclamation and Bishop Howard Hubbard who blessed McCotter's headstone. Following a Flag unfolding ceremony and a three volley rifle salute, Taps was played by Robert Button. Other Brothers on hand were Dave M. Dziewulski CC, Ray LeMay III , Bill Halpin, Leo McGuire and Lew Warner.

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

Month	Date	Event / Location
August	20 - 21	Schuyler Flatts Watervleit, NY
September	10th	September meeting
	16 - 18	Saratoga Springs, NY Civil War Encampment

August 12 – 14 Civil War Heritage Music Gathering & Encampment, Windham, NY , Bros. Keough, Walter & Dziewulski are committed w/ the Iron Jacks (**NOT an SUVCW event**).

Consider attending the Living History Encampment hosted by Morgan's Artillery and "Mac" McEvelly in Sand Lake, NY on October 1 and 2 (watch updates here: <http://morgansartillery.webs.com/apps/calendar/>) to be considered for a vote

Brothers Use The Web and Visit These Sites:

Col. George L Willard Camp #154
<http://www.gwillard154.org/>

NYS Civil War Sesquicentennial
<http://www.nycivilwar150.org/>