

Our
115th
Year



CAMP OFFICERS

Camp Commander
Robert Keough

Senior Vice
Commander
David Dziejewski

Junior Vice
Commander
Leo McGuire

Secretary/Treasurer
George Malinoski

Camp Council
Paul Grady
David Dziejewski
Ray LeMay III

Chaplain
George Malinoski

Patriotic Instructor
Richard Straight

Guide
John Swartwout

Guard
Paul Cooney

The Guidon

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Spring 2014

Once more it is time to "Rally 'Round The Flags"

As the song says it is one more time to "Rally 'Round The Flag" but this time there is a twist in term and that's which flag? At the Camp's April 5th meeting Brother Richard Straight, our Patriotic Instructor, gave a very informative talk on the New York State Battle Field flag collection which is held by the NYS Division of Military & Naval Affairs. The collection contains over 1850 military flags dating from the War of 1812 to present. It includes more than 800 Civil War flags alone. This sounds like a wonderful collection for the State to maintain but that's the problem. The collection was started in January of 1863 but due to improper storage over the years most of the flags are in very fragile condition. The flags are in this condition because of the effects of gravity, excessive light and soil from being stored in poorly sealed cases at the State Capitol in Albany, NY.

Beginning in 2000 with the NYS Battle Flag Preservation Project about 25% of these flags have undergone conservation and have been given improved storage. This conservation of a small part of the collection has taken 14 years and now, with no money in the State budget, the fate of the rest of the collection is questionable.

After Brother Straight's presentation it was the feeling of the Camp that this NYS Battle Flag Preservation Project should become something the SUVCW took an interest in and try to support. The Col. George L. Willard Camp has already given some funds to this end, but if this project is to ever be completed a great deal more funding has to be found.

The overall goal of this preservation project is to develop a 10,000 square foot flag archive where all the flags can be conserved and permanently housed in appropriate preservation conditions. This will be a costly undertaking, and without State funding, the Camp believes the private sector needs to "Rally 'Round The Flags" so these battle flags will survive for future generations of New Yorkers. We need to write our State representatives, contact anyone who can help raise awareness, find benefactors for the project and "pass the hat." You may read Brother Straight's complete and interesting presentation on the Camp's web site: www.GLWILLARD154.org under Patriotic Instructor's Report.



69th Regiment NY State Militia "Prince of Wales Flag" given to the Regiment by the people of New York City 1861.



Brother Robert Walter stands in front of the restored regimental flag of Col. Elmer Ellsworth's 5th New York Fire Zouavas.

Torch Club Hears CW Speaker



Photo: Michael Teres

Brother Robert Keough, CC and Professor Emeritus making a point during his lecture on Civil War Photography in Geneseo, NY.

On April 10th members of the Geneseo, NY chapter of The International Torch Clubs enjoyed a well illustrated lecture on Civil War Photography. Torch Clubs operate in 70 locations in the United States and Canada, each drawing its membership from the local professional community. Their mission is "To enable local clubs and members to perpetuate the sharing of knowledge, experience, and fellowship among the various professions." The lecture was presented by Robert Keough, Commander of the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He took the members back in time before 'selfies,' Polaroid cameras and even before film as our generation had known it. A time when a photographer had to make his own film on glass, expose it for over 10 seconds and develop it on the spot. He talked about both the technological process and the resulting images. The photographic tour included places, pictures of new technology used during the Civil War and the personalities from politicians and generals to the regular enlisted men.



The Joy of Giving Away Money



Brother David Dziewulski PCC and Camp liaison for the General Thomas Project looks on while Camp Commander Robert Keough presents the Camp's check to Toni Craft and Dave Trolie of the Friends of Oakwood Cemetery.

A number of years ago the Department of NY and the Camp adopted the General Thomas grave site. His stone was cleaned and we have kept the site mowed and clean ever since. Now the Col. George L. Willard Camp has taken its first giant step on the General Thomas Grave Site project. For the project, which has been headed up by Brother Dziewulski PCC, a check for \$1000.00 was presented to the Friends of Oakwood Cemetery. This money will be used for signage to direct cemetery visitors to the grave site and to identify the site itself. The Camp designed markers will be similar to the Uncle Sam markers already in use at the cemetery. The sign at the grave will include the Camp's name and order as funding the agency. A large presentation check was created for the ceremony conducted at a recent Camp meeting held at the St. Agnes' Cemetery Offices in Menands, NY. This is the first major step in this on going project that will see the pruning or removal of a large tree on the site and repair to the original fencing and new fencing to define the complete Kellogg Family Plot. Brothers you are encouraged to 'talk it up,' with anyone you know who may want to contribute to project.

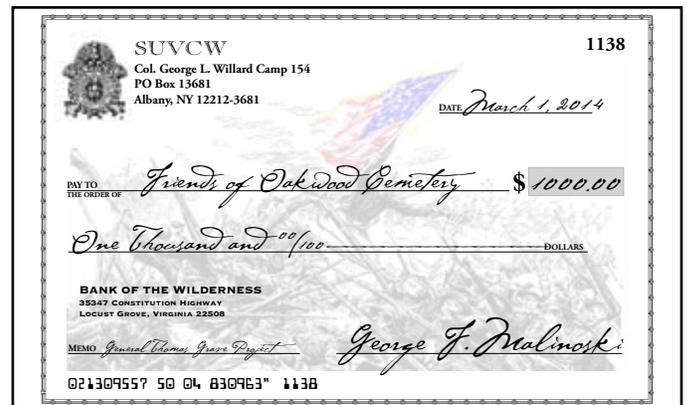


Image of the large presentation check created of the occasion.

SUVCW Eagle Scout Award

Nicholas Hedges

March 1, 2014



"What a great event," was how I felt when I went to a Boy Scout Court of Honor for Nicholas Hages. After our March Camp meeting I drove down to Elizaville, NY an hour south of Albany to attend this event. The most important award of the day was the Eagle Badge awarded to Nick, but this was not the only award to be presented. Representatives from Elks, Masons, VFW, American Legion, Columbia County Board of Supervisors and the Sons of Union Veterans of Civil War were all there to present their organization's award to Nick. Everyone spoke about his accomplishments. Nick's Eagle Project involved restoring the defunct, overgrown Snyderville Cemetery back to its natural order. He had to organize work teams, obtain equipment and needed supplies. Nick was aided by the Town of Ballatin Highway Department in tree removal and brush pick up. A GAR marker, found at the site, was sanded, repainted and a new flag posted. We wish Nicholas good luck in the future.



Willard Camp Commander Robert Keough reads SUVCW Eagle Scout Certificate during his comments at the recent Court of Honor.

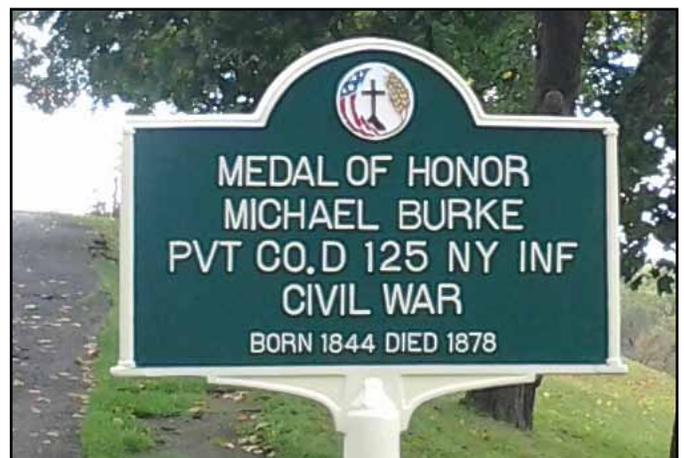
50 Years of Service !



Brother Jerry Orton PDC has given the Camp Archive Brother R. Wagoner's SUV 50 year badge.

Much thanks to Brother Orton for this wonderful gift. From him the Camp archive has received Brother Robert Wagoner's 50 year badge. Mr. Wagoner joined the SUV in 1918, he was the grandson of Robert C. Salisbury Co.H, 177th NYVI and also of the 7th NYHA. As a member of the SUVCW he was a Past Ten Eyck Camp 154 and Department of NY Commander. He had been a member for a total of 68 years when he died on November 4, 1986 at the age of 89. Bob is buried with his wife Grace (Austin) Wagoner in the Vale Cemetery in Schenectady, NY.

Medal of Honor Winner



A new sign at St. Mary's Cemetery in Troy, NY honors Pvt. Michael Burke, Company D, 125th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

Out of The Past - 1939



Des Moines, IA: "I can walk, I never get tired of walking!" said W. H. Chesbrough, 94 of Beloit, WI, National Color Sergeant of the GAR. Chesbrough, despite advice to the contrary, insisted upon his privilege to carry the Colors in the parade at the seventy-second GAR National Encampment in Des Moines.

Underground Railroad Project

Brother David Dziewulski, PCC made a presentation at the annual three-day conference held by the Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region (UHRPCR) at Russell Sage College in Troy, NY. In a breakout session held on Saturday April 12, Brother David presented an updated version of his lecture "Blackjacks, White Sails, and Shipmates." During the presentation attendees learned about African-American participation in merchant and whaling service as well as military service from the time of the Continental Navy through the Quasi War with France, the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812. The final focus was the role of the African-American sailor in the Civil War Union Navy. Sailors' numbers, roles, perceptions, attitudes, and equality in the integrated Navy were examined. In particular, the role of the contraband was compared and contrasted with free blacks and other shipmates.

A New Look for the Guidon

You will notice a slight change to the Col. George L. Willard newsletter. After three years your editor felt the "Guidon" needed some up dating. A new side bar has been added using the red, white and blue ribbon of Camp medal and the SUVCW logo. Down the side bar the officers of the camp have been listed for handy reference. A type style change completes the new look.

Col. George L. Willard Camp # 154 Coming Events 2014

Month	Date	Event / Location
April	26	Earth Day clean-up at New Mount Ida Cemetery located on Pinewoods Avenue Troy, NY at 9:00 am
May	2,3,4	Department of New York Encampment Holiday Inn Rochester Airport, 911 Brooks Ave. - Rochester, NY 14624
	30	Camp Memorial Day Events Start: Albany Rural Cemetery, Soldier and Sailor's Plot, 10:00 a.m.
	31	Troy Civil War Days Troy, 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/>