

THE GUIDON

1897

THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

2019

Col. George L. Willard Camp # 154, P.O. Box 13681 Albany, NY 12212-3681 www.GLWILARD154.org

WINTER 2018/19

A Brother's Journey with Oakwood Cemetery

Thomas O. Maggs and David M. Dziewulski, PCC

As a lifelong visitor to Oakwood Cemetery, Brother Thomas O. Magg's parents made it abundantly clear to him that there were veterans buried at rest in the Cemetery from the earliest of wars up to the present day. Because of his love for the American Eagle, one of the monuments that made an impression on him was the memorial to General George H. Thomas.

In 2000 Brother Maggs became a trustee of Oakwood Cemetery. At that time the President of the Board was not very assertive when it came to maintenance and financing. It was very frustrating for Brother Maggs to see the cemetery in such a tight financial condition, the equipment in tough shape and many of the buildings in seriously deteriorated conditions. When a change of administration occurred at Oakwood, Charlie R. Johnson, Col. US Army (ret.) agreed to become acting President of the Board of Directors and soon thereafter he asked if Brother Maggs would take the helm (2009). Tom realized it was time to take on the responsibility because of his family's long association and love of Oakwood. With the great leadership of Bernie Vogel, the Chief Administrator, the late Tom Gibson (Superintendent of Grounds) and the tremendous outpouring of support from the board and many volunteers everyone began the long march toward success. Soon thereafter, an important infusion of dollars in the form of State funding was received. This funding, and the efforts of so many others, finally put Oakwood Cemetery on a stable footing.

As time passed it became Brother Maggs' mission to find every Civil War veteran's plot and then be sure that each plot had a US flag emplaced each Memorial Day. Eventually every Civil War veteran that cemetery staff located did receive their flag and that honor was later extended to veterans of all wars. Now, approximately 800 flags are placed on the plots of veterans, section by section, each Memorial Day.

Much of the initial work of recovering fallen or buried stones occurred in the area of the Kellogg Family plot which contains the General Thomas monument. Brother Maggs saw that the Thomas Monument and surrounding area was in need of maintenance; the plot has seen better days (Figure 1). Many memorials in the Kellogg plot were toppled, the copper beech tree was seriously decayed and endangering the memorials. To add to the desperate condition, the ornate fence surrounding the Kellogg plot had been vandalized and damaged by fallen branches. To add insult to injury damage to the fence was also caused by another nearby tree.

The copper beech needed to be assessed by a professional. Several arborists looked at the tree and, as has been reported here in the Guidon, the beech tree had to be cut down to protect the monument and other markers in the Kellogg plot. Another item that concerned Brother Maggs was the fence that had been damaged by falling limbs. There were discussions about reducing the perimeter covered by the old fence and replacing the missing areas with a rough, modern equivalent. About this time Willard Camp had approached Oakwood Cemetery and



Figure 1. The Kellogg plot and General Thomas Monument as it appeared in 1961 (Courtesy Troy Cemetery Association)



the Friends of Oakwood Cemetery (Friends) about adopting the Kellogg plot and the General Thomas monument. So in August 2012 Willard Camp got the news that the adoption was approved by the Board of Directors. The Camp, Oakwood Cemetery and the Friends also completed a memorandum of understanding that covered the relationship among the groups and how donations would be managed. Our association has been mutually motivating. Camp brothers are familiar with all the projects that have been done by the Camp and covered in the pages of the Guidon. The biggest challenge in the way of completing the project continues to be the replacement of the fence.

The lot and the surrounding areas are well on their way to being transformed with some help from Willard Camp. However, this is where Brother Tom surprised everyone with his coup de main related to the fence. Through extraordinary efforts he has worked with Ross Valve of Troy NY behind the scenes. Ross Valve has taken on the task of preparing molds and casting replacement fence sections (Figure 2). There have been very generous anonymous donations that have reduced the overall costs by about two-thirds. Approximately an additional \$12,000 will be needed to complete the project. At this time 20 sections have been cast and 15 of those are finish ground and ready for final preparations. Both the Friends of Oakwood Cemetery and Willard Camp continue to solicit funding for the fence. Small and large efforts have been used



Figure 2. Newly cast fence section produced from molds of the original fence (Courtesy Troy Cemetery Association).

to help keep the project moving forward. Anyone who is interested in making a donation can contact Willard Camp for additional information. This effort has been a heartwarming and inspiring movement driven by many volunteers and contributors to carry on the hope and the respect that is everything "Oakwood."



New Camp Officers



Pinning of the Camp Commander's badge of office.

On January 5th 2019, Brother Brian Castler became the new Camp Commander of the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154 at the monthly meeting. The following is the 2019 slate of Camp Officers:

Camp Commander	Brian Castler
Senior Vice Commander	John Swartwout
Junior Vice Commander	Vince Jockimo
Secretary	Leo McGuire
Treasurer	Robert Keough
Camp Council.	Richard Straight
Camp Council.	George Malinoski
Camp Council.	David Dziewulski
Chaplain	George Malinoski
Patriotic Instructor	Paul Cooney
Guide	Tim Mabee
Guard.	Paul Cooney
Color Bearer	Francis Rogler
Graves Registration	James King
Monument Officer	David Dziewulski
Eagle Scout Coordinator.	Brian Castler
Guidon Editor.	Robert Keough

Wreaths Across America



Brother Thomas Maggs places a wreath on the grave at Albany Rural Cemetery.

The tag said, "Today I placed a Wreath on the Grave of an American Hero." This note was attached to each wreath that the Camp placed on the graves in the GAR plot in Albany Rural Cemetery. Camp Brothers arrived at 10:00 a.m. on December 15th to do the honors.

In the past the Brothers placed wreaths at the Gerald B. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery as part of Wreaths across America. This year it was decided to do the wreath laying closer to home. Brothers Brian Castler, John Swartwout, Robert Keough PCC, Paul Cooney, George Malinoski, Thomas Maggs and Camp Commander Richard Straight were on hand. They were met there by Tyler N. Kattrein from the Albany Rural Cemetery's board.

After finishing up in Albany some of the Brothers went over to Oakwood Cemetery in Troy. There they placed wreaths on both General Henny Thomas' and Col. George Willard's graves. It was a nice December day to pay tribute to all these individuals, cloudy but the temperature in the mid-40° range.



Brothers in front of Col. George L. Willard's grave after placing a wreath.



Wreaths row upon row.



Brother John Swartwout holds the tag from a wreath.

New Brothers



Camp Chaplin George Malinoski reads the member's oath.

On December 1st two new members, Robert Wubberhorst and Jeffrey Gregory, were inducted into the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154. Fourteen other Brothers were on hand for the ceremony that was conducted at the Camp's monthly meeting.

Camp's New Bugle



Brother James King admires the Camp's electronic new bugle.

The Camp has discussed buying an electronic bugle to use at events like Memorial Day for some time. We now have the bugle and it has very nice pre-recorded bugle calls. Now when we attend ceremonies and funerals we can provide bugle calls including Taps. It was first used at the Hartford flag pole dedication in November 2018.

SUVCW Support Scouting

THE FOLLOW SCOUTS HAVE RECEIVED THE SUVCW'S EAGLE SCOUT CERTIFICATE FROM THE COL. GEORGE L. WILLARD CAMP.

NAME:	TROOP:	DATE:
CONNOR ASHLINE	4016	07/10/2018
SCOTT JONES	6002	07/10/2018
MATTHEW SLOVAK	2114	05/29/2018
KARL BURKERT	4001	07/24/2018
AUSTIN MANDIGO	6040	07/24/2018
RYAN BROOKS	6022	07/24/2018
KADON LANE	4013	08/09/2018
BRIAN BEYERBACH	6004	08/09/2018
JOHN P. WALSH	237	06/28/1971
STEPHEN TROMBETTA		04/04/2018
MAXIMUS TETU	4016	09/04/2018
COLE PETERSON	4018	09/04/2018
RAYMOND JONES	6002	09/04/2018
DYLAN BAKER	6030	10/05/2018
CORDELL SMITH	6061	10/05/2018
MATTHELL PISANO	0020	10/08/2018
CHRISTOPHER RATHBUN	6044	11/06/2018
ANTHONY PERRY	6002	11/06/2018
JORDAN CORVIN	26	10/27/2018
RYAN E. PIRLOT	6061	12/06/2018
JOHN ANDRE	6016	12/06/2018
DOUGLAS JOHNSON	4016	12/06/2018

CONGRATULATIONS



"Keeping Green The Memory"

Col. George L. Willard Camp # 154

Camp Officers

- Camp Commander Brian Castler
- Senior Vice Commander . . . John Swartwout
- Junior Vice Commander Vince Jockimo
- Secretary Leo McGuire
- Treasurer Robert Keough
- Camp Council. Richard Straight
- Camp Council. George Malinoski
- Camp Council. David Dziewulski
- Chaplain George Malinoski
- Patriotic Instructor Paul Cooney
- Guide Tim Mabee
- Guard. Paul Cooney
- Color Bearer Francis Rogler
- Graves Registration James King
- Monument Officer David Dziewulski
- Eagle Scout Coordinator. Brian Castler
- Guidon Editor. Robert Keough

Coming Events

April	6	Camp Meeting
May	4	Camp Meeting
May	30	Memorial Day
June	1	Camp Meeting
July		No Camp Meeting
August		No Camp Meeting
September	7	Camp Meeting

The Guidon is the official newsletter of the Col. George L. Willard Camp #154, SUVCW. It is published four times a year. The editor may be reached at: rpkeough@aol.com.

Brothers 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/>