

THE GUIDON

1897

THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

2020

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

Winter 2019-20

2020 Officers Instaled



At the Camp's altar, Brothers Peter L. Swano and Tom Maggs take the oath of office administered by Richard Straight DC.

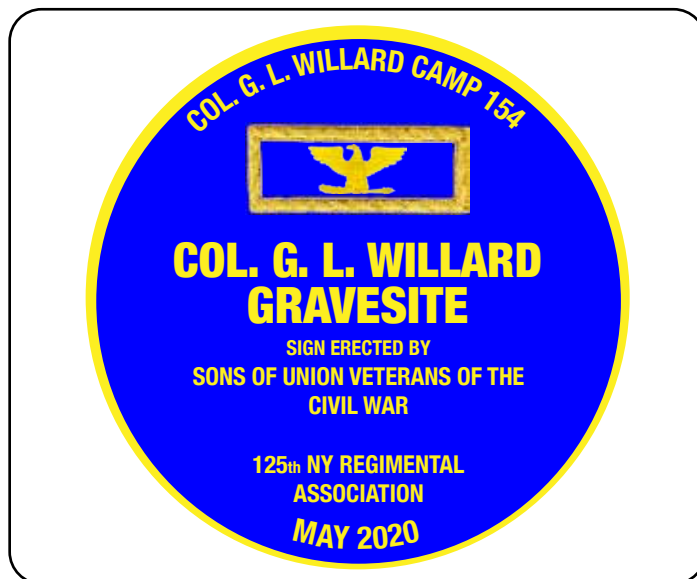
The newly elected and appointed officers are sworn in during the first Camp meeting of the New Year. There was not a great deal of change in officers for this coming year. Officers for 2020 are:

Camp Commander: Brian Castler
Senior Vice Commander: Vince Jockimo
Junior Vice Command: John Swartwout
Secretary: Leo McGuire
Treasurer: Robert Keough
Camp Council: David Dziejewski
Camp Council: Richard Straight
Camp Council: Paul Cooney
Chaplain: Thomas Maggs
Patriotic Instructor: Paul Cooney
Guide Chris White
Guard: Peter Swano
Color Bearer: Francis Rogler
Graves Registration: James King
Monument Officer: David Dziejewski
Eagle Scout Coordinator: Brian Castler
Guidon Editor: Robert Keough

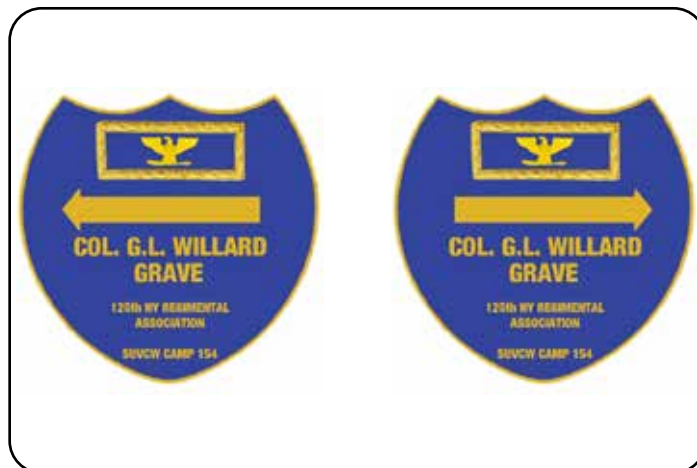
Please give these Brothers your help as they carry out their respective duties.

Willard Grave Signs

A grave marker and directional signage will be installed at Oakwood Cemetery to assist visitors to the gravesite of Col. George L. Willard. Willard Camp along with the 125th NY Regimental Association have come together to fund this project. The namesake of our Camp led the 125th NYVI Regiment at the Battle of Gettysburg where he was killed on July 2, 1863 during action along the Emittsburg Road. It is hoped that this project will be finished by Summer of 2020. Oakwood Cemetery staff will emplace the signs.



The design of the Col. G. L. Willard grave marker is based on the sign used at the General Thomas gravesite.



The hard-to-find Willard gravesite will have up to eight directional markers to guide visitors.

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

Brother
Vincent J. Wallace

U.S. Marine Corps Veteran

October 26, 1931 ~ October 9, 2019



Camp Meeting Canceled

On behalf of Camp Commander Brian Castler, I am forwarding the following:

Our next scheduled Camp Meeting on Saturday, 4 April 2020 is being **CANCELED** due to **COVID 19** and the Governor's directive that all gatherings, of any size for any reason must be canceled or postponed.

I will keep you informed of our Camp's schedule as more information becomes available on COVID 19 restrictions or lifting of them.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via email (eaglebsa@gmail.com) or by phone (518-624-2780) at your earliest convenience.

Yours in F, C & L,
Brian Castler, Commander
Col. George. L. Willard Camp #154, SUVCW

Attested: Leo McGuire, Secretary

In Memoriam

Brother
Cassius J. Miller Jr.

U.S. Army Veteran World War II

September 12, 1919 ~ October 9, 2020



Two Brothers

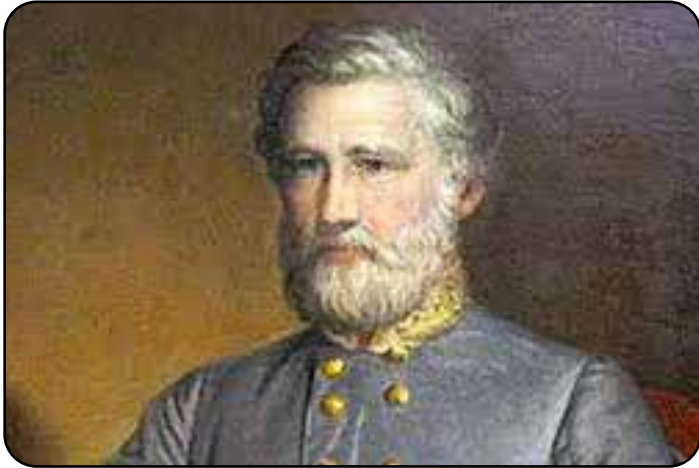


"Brother vs. Brother. West Virginia, 1910" by Finley Taylor from a book called "Richwood" published by Acadia Press, Shows two brothers who fought against each other during the Civil War. Taylor was an early Appalachian photographer.



An Interesting Aside

Our Patriotic Instructor recently brought this item to the attention of Willard Camp. He was online and found an article which is partly reproduced here. It makes one pause and think about just what went on in the distant past. Had we forgotten what these people represented? Was it an end run to keep alive the Southern Cause? It is not just Confederate monuments we need to look at but the total subversion of what the Civil War was about.



Brigadier General Henry Lewis Benning zealot, firebrand, George secessionist and bitterly opposing abolition.

IN THE SOUTH in the years before the Civil War, it would have been difficult to find a more zealous advocate for slavery than Henry Lewis Benning. He was a firebrand from Georgia and an early advocate of Southern secession. As his public stature rose, Benning became an increasingly ardent voice for the creation of a pro-slavery Southern republic. He helped draft Georgia's ordinance of secession, which took the state out of the Union just before the Civil War.

Benning was such a powerful force for secession that Georgia sent him as the state's representative to persuade Virginia to secede as well. In a speech in Virginia in early 1861, Benning revealed in unflinching terms his belief that secession was the only way to save slavery in the South. Georgia had seceded, he said, because of "a deep conviction on the part of Georgia that a separation from the North was the only thing that could prevent the abolition of her slavery. ... If things are allowed to go on as they are, it is certain slavery is to be abolished. By the time the North shall have attained the power, the black race will be in a large majority, and then we will have black governors, black legislatures, black juries, black everything. Is it to be supposed that the white race will stand for that? It is not a supposable case. ... War will break out everywhere like hidden fire from the earth." Virginia seceded, and Benning went on to become a general in the Confederate Army.

Today, Benning would be a long-forgotten footnote to the history of Southern white supremacy — if not for the U.S. Army. That's because the Army honors

Benning above almost any other military officer in American history. Fort Benning, in Georgia, one of the most important military installations in the United States, is named for him.

Benning's qualifications for having one of America's most iconic Army bases named after him? He was a Confederate and he was from Georgia. In an era of protests against Confederate monuments across the South, the U.S. Army has faced almost no resistance to its steadfast determination to keep those names in place.

Fort Benning is just one of 10 Army bases named for Confederates, a legacy of the Jim Crow era in the South, when many of today's largest bases were built in rural Southern areas where the Army could accumulate large tracts of cheap land with the kind of terrain and climate needed for training.

Eager to expand rapidly during the periods around World War I and World War II, the Army placated white Southern community leaders by naming newly constructed bases after Confederates, usually generals with some local connection. The Army didn't seem to care who the bases were named after as long as they won local cooperation to build them fast. "In these times of crisis, the Army was going to work with the local people who had power and influence, and they would go along with them on what to name the bases," observed David Cecelski, a North Carolina historian who has written extensively about slavery and civil rights.

This phenomena is not restricted to Benning there is Fort Bragg named for General Braxton Bragg, a major slave owner; Fort Gordon built in 1941 and named for General John Brown Gordon, the one time head of the Ku Klux Klan; and Fort Rucker named for Edmud Rucker who served with General Nathan Bedford Forrest who massacred 300, mostly black Union Soldiers. The Army is not the only branch of the services that have carried on this naming game. The US Navy named a liberty ship the S.S. Henry L. Benning during World War II and during the Civil Rights struggles of the 1960s, that the Navy commissioned the USS Robert E. Lee, USS Stonwall Jackson, both nuclear submarines, and USS Hunley a submarine tender. More recently the navy built the USS Chancellorsville named after the greatest Civil War victory of Confederate General Robert E. Lee.

Retired Naval Officer and writer Earl J. Higgins has said; "People have either an ignorance of history, a twisted notion of history or they simply do not like and refuse to accept the reality of history," he said. "And that is the Civil War, slavery, Jim Crow." We need to think things through and hopefully put an end to this on-going nonsense. It should not have taken 100 plus years to bring about a reconciliation and truthful view of history. Slavery was wrong then and supporting it today is wrong and, anyway, who would name a ship after an Army general? To read more go to:

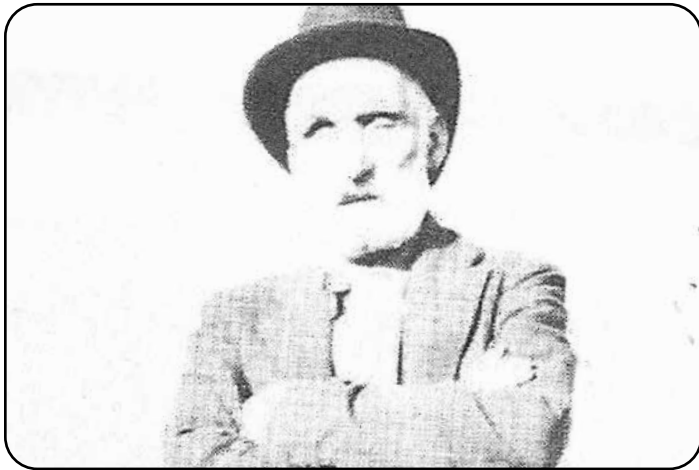
<https://theintercept.com/2019/10/06/army-bases-confederate-names/>.

County's Last Civil War Vet

Willard Camp Commander Brian Castler has just completed a monograph on Samuel G. Anibal, the last Civil War veteran in Hamilton County, NY. Anibal was a private in Battery D, 4th New York Heavy Artillery Regiment. Sam was born on May 10, 1847 and died on December 10, 1943. He mustered into the regiment on January 6, 1864 in Johnstown, NY and was mustered out on August 5, 1865. During his time with the unit it took part in a number of engagements including Battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, Mine Explosion, Petersburg and was at Appomattox Court House for Lee's Surrender on April 9, 1865.

On Memorial Day, May 3, 1939, he was the Honorary Marshal of a parade held in Long Lake, NY for the observance of Memorial Day. There were 6 musical units in the parade and 30 other civic groups including Spanish War Veterans, American Legion, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 3 Civilian Conservation Corp Companies and 10 local fire companies.

Samuel Anibal was born in Johnstown, NY and spent his adult life in Hamilton County, NY. He is buried in Holmes Cemetery at Benson, Hamilton County, NY. This is the third "last Civil War veteran" monograph Brian has completed.



The only known photograph of Samuel G. Anibal



If you "do the math," Samuel G. Anibal was 96 years old when he passed. Living long is its own best reward.



"Keeping Green The Memory"

Col. George L. Willard Camp # 154

Camp Officers

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

Coming Events

- | | | |
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| April | 4 | Camp Meeting |
| May | 2 | Camp Meeting |
| | 30 | Memorial Day |
| June | 5-7 | Department Encampment |
| | 13 | Lincoln Luncheon |
| July | 25 | Grant Remembrance |
| Sept. | 5 | 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/>