

## A New Reality for the Camp and the Department

When we put out the last Guidon none of us knew what COVID-19 was, now it is changing our lives. For the first time the Camp met to conduct its monthly business without being together in a meeting room. Using the Zoom conferencing software we met while each member was isolated at home. Because of the seriousness of this illness we are now following social distancing guidelines for our collective health. Brother Francis Rogler suggested the concept of meeting on-line and he set up the means to accomplish it. At 10:00 on May 2nd the Brothers logged on to the Zoom conference and the meeting began. There were no problems conducting the meeting and we finished with time to spare.

The 137th Department of New York Encamp-



A group of Camp members at the Col. George L. Willard Camp's virtual meeting May 2020.



Brother Leo McGuire PDC makes remarks during the Camp's May meeting using Zoom technology.

ment was conducted online June 5-6, 2020 for the first time in SUVVCW history. What would our GAR forefathers have thought about this situation? First, that we continue to celebrate them and their deeds and second, using a technology that they could not even imagine. Some of the newer technology of the day included the telegraph and photography and electricity wasn't in common use until the mid-1880s. Thankfully, this first virtual Department of New York Encampment went off without a hitch. Both the annual Campfire and the business meeting were held using Zoom conferencing software.

Our own Brian Castler was elected Senior Vice Commander, congratulations Brian!!! We look to the future to see where newer technology takes us, but for now our virtual Encampments were well done.



This is both sides of the virtual face of the Department of New York on June 6, 2020. One brother looks on at home and see the assembled group.

# Hate in America must STOP

The 2019 report by The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), *The Year In Hate And Extremism*, has just been released. This is a yearly event and the document tracks hate groups in America. The Southern Poverty Law Center, based in Montgomery, Alabama, is a non-profit civil rights organization founded in 1971. It is dedicated to fighting hate, bigotry and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of society.

The report identifies 940 hate groups in the Nation with 44 operating in New York State, which is one of the top states ranked by number of hate groups. The document reported a 55% increase in white nationalist hate groups since 2017 and a 43% surge in anti-LGBTQ groups in 2019. The report also includes information on anti-government, anti-immigrant, anti-muslim, neo-confederate and Black Separatist groups.

The report is well written and not only identifies hate groups but also spells out the SPLC's methodology of how these groups are identified and categorized and the tactics use by these groups to spread hate. You may also view this information by visiting the SPLC's web site at: [www.splcenter.org/hate-map](http://www.splcenter.org/hate-map). As informed citizens we need to be aware of the actions of these groups in our country. It is interesting that these hate groups use names that, at first glance, may not seem to be offensive. Examples are: American Freedom Union, Great Millstone, The III%ers, National Alliance, Heritage Association and Legion of St. Ambrose. Our goal may be to "keep green the memory of the GAR," but we should also try to unite Americans and to suppress hate in this country.



**The Confederate flag, the Klan and hate have become synonymous in our society.**

# GAR in Schenectady, NY

Camp Brother Jerry Orton PDC and Department Historian sent the following photographs from the Schenectady, NY Facebook page.



**G.A.R. members marching on State St. 1909.**



**Civil War veterans marching down State St. in 1923. Note how the ranks have thinned when compared to the above 1909 photograph taken 14 years earlier.**



**Civil War veterans (left to right): Hall, Van Heusen, Van Patten, Sager, Campbell and Eaton at the train station in Schenectady, NY. Eaton on the far right was Schenectady's last surviving Civil War veteran, he died October 14, 1941.**



# Remembering and Memorializing at a Distance

On May 30th Camp Brothers gathered once more for our “normal” Memorial Day observances held in “abnormal” times. With the COVID-19 pandemic ongoing, we gathered with masks on and social distancing in mind. We conducted five services: Two at Albany Rural Cemetery and three at Oakwood Cemetery in Troy, NY. We did not have that shoulder-to-shoulder sense of brotherhood as we distanced ourselves from each other and viewed each other over those protective masks. Nevertheless, there was still a feeling of commitment, love, remembrance and dedication.



**Dressed as a GAR re-enactor Brother Vince Jockimo ponders the names of fallen Civil War veterans buried in plot 101A in Albany Rural Cemetery.**



**Camp Commander Brian Castler and Robert Keough PCC take a genuine Civil War selfie in Long Lake, NY on May 25th.**



**The Col. George L. Willard Camp 154 conducts services at the completely restored General Thomas grave site in Oakwood Cemetery, Troy, NY.**



**Camp Brothers distance themselves while conducting Memorial Day services at Albany Rural Cemetery on May 30.**

# A New Look

# THE GUIDON

1897 \* COL. GEORGE L. WILLARD CAMP # 154 P.O. BOX 13661 ALBANY, NY 12212-3661 www.GLWILLARD154.org \*

This begins my 10th year as editor of the Col. George L. Willard Camp newsletter, The Guidon. To keep things fresh I have changed the look of The Guidon every three years. This time with a little more up-to-date look, but staying with a proven color scheme and format. I look to this publication not only to inform the membership but also as an historic document. As I look at the last 36 issues I can trace the involvement of the group in numerous activities- - some repetitive others unique.

One can see the activities of the leadership and the involvement of our members. The beginning of, and the end of, projects and their influence on the organization's next undertaking. We can trace the loss of old members and the induction of new members. I believe The Guidon is a glimpse into the soul of this group and a view of the goals and achievements of The Col. George L. Willard Camp 154, SUVCW.

## SUVCW Supporting Scouts

The follow scouts have received the SUVCW's Eagle Scout Certificate from The Col. George L. Willard CAMP # 154

Name:	Troop:	Date:
Hunter Meyers	650	12 Sept 2019
Dale Reynolds		28 Arr 2019
Dustin Colombo		14 Oct 2019
Zachary Zanella	4070	5 Nov 2019
Colby Geisler	6016	5 Nov 2019
Daneil Woloszyn		3 Sept 2019
James Brooks	4003	3 Dec 2019
Joshua Peterson	4003	7 Jan 2020
Albert Rust	4003	7 Jan 2020
Theodore Van De Ven	4016	7 Jan 2020
Brendan Kulka	6002	4 Feb 2020
Robert Bodien	4002	4 Feb 2020
Terrence Benedict	6073	4 Feb 2020
Chris Birchmore	6044	3 Mar 2020
Edward Berthiaume	4035	5 May 2020
Cameron Woodard	6002	5 May 2020
Luke Shave	4002	13 May 2020
Jason Lange	4016	13 May 2020
Jarad Nighinggale	4016	20 May 2020
Jacob Szymanski	4016	20 May 2020
Gregory Wilson	4001	2 June 2020
Daniel Lootens	4018	2 June 2020

## Congratulations



## The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

"Keeping Green The Memory"

## Camp Officers

Col. George L. Willard Camp # 154

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 . . . . .	Ray LeMay III
Chaplain. . . . .	James King
Patriotic Instructor . . . . .	Paul Cooney
Guide . . . . .	Mark Isaacs
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

Oct.	5	Camp Meeting, President Arthur event
Nov.	2	Camp Meeting
Dec.	7	Camp Meeting (election)
	21	Wreath Across America at Albany Rural Cemetery

*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](mailto:rpkeough@aol.com).

## Brothers Visit These Sites:

- Col. George L. Willard Camp #154**  
<http://www.glwillard154.org/>
- SUVCW Department of NY**  
<http://suvchw.org/ny/deptny.htm>
- SUVCW National Headquarters**  
<http://www.suvchw.org/>