

# Committee Reports

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Sons of Union Veterans  
of the Civil War  
Department of New York



REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

2013-2014

Two issues of importance drew our attention this past year. One involves the USS MONITOR MUSEUM as proposed for Greenpoint, Brooklyn and the other involves Grant's Cottage in Mt. McGregor, NY.

In conversation with Senior Vice Commander George Weinmann, members of the SUVCW are working with local NYC Council Representative Stephen Levin who is trying to arrange a meeting with newly elected mayor Bill De Blasio so that the museum can be discussed with the new administration. At the time of this report, the mayor is still transitioning into the position so no meeting has been held to date. It is our hope that during the coming year such a meeting will take place and that the plans for a new museum can then go forward.

On the matter of Grant's Cottage, Governor Cuomo plans to close the correctional facility in 2014 upon which the historic site depends for its snow removal, electric power, water, sewer, visitor center, and security. According to Friends of Grant's Cottage President Tim Walsh, the site hopes to apply for national landmark status giving it greater significance in further attempts to protect and preserve it. We have made attempts to reach out to the legislature to see what will happen next and so far, we have no further information to share at this time (See attached article from the Albany Times-Union dated September 28, 2013).



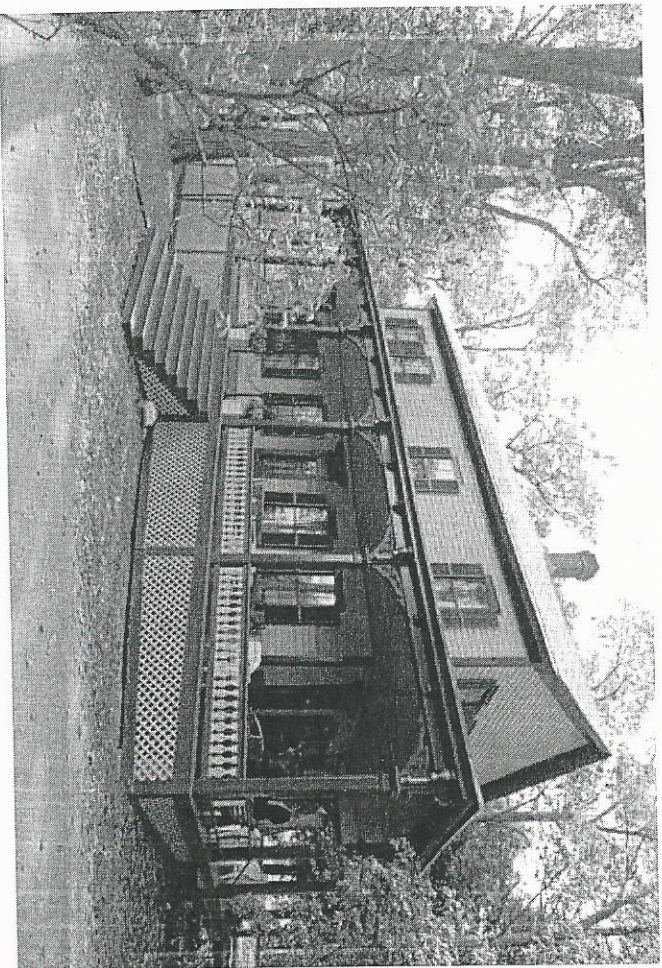
## Uncertainty over Grant Cottage

Fate of historic site lost in debate over closing of Mount McGregor

By Dennis Yusko

Updated 9:22 pm, Saturday, September 28, 2013

**timesunion.com**



A view of the Grant Cottage State Historic Site at Mount McGregor on Monday, Oct. 8, 2012 in Gansevoort, N.Y. Monday was the last day the cottage was open for the season. (Paul Buckowski / Times Union)

### Wilton

The governor's plan to close the Mount McGregor Correctional Facility next year also threatens Grant Cottage, a spokesperson for the historic site said.

The state prison sits atop a mountain next to the Ulysses S. Grant Cottage State Historic Site, where the Union general and two-term U.S.

"There's a lot of implications with the prison closing, and we're quite concerned about it," Welch said Thursday when contacted by a reporter.

Cuomo says he wants to save \$30 million by closing four state prisons, including Mount McGregor. Union members and elected officials rallied against the plan Wednesday at the facility. The prison employs about 320 workers. Lost in the debate over that has been the future of Grant Cottage.

The state took control of the prison in the 1960s. A spokesman for the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision said in an email Thursday that the department would start discussions next month about the future of Grant Cottage with the state Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

The state leases a building on Mount McGregor to the Grant site that now serves as its visitors center. It also supplies water, sewer and electricity on the mountain to both the center and cottage, Welch said.

If the medium-security prison shut down, so would the state-manned guard shack located at the entrance to the jail and cottage. Although the historic site closes each October for the winter, it relies on the state for snow removal so the hill's road is clear for emergencies, Welch said.

"We're going to have to make other arrangements, and the nature of the organization might change radically if we have to find a way to finance all those services," Welch said. Members of the friends group were in preliminary discussions with state officials, while applying for national landmark status, Welch said.

Gravely ill and financially destitute, former President Grant arrived in Saratoga County during the summer of 1885. He died five weeks later, but not before completing a famous autobiography to support his family. In later years, Civil War veterans made pilgrimages to the airy mountain house from across the country to pay their respects to the "Savior of the Union."

At 6:30 p.m. Sunday, the friends group will host a performance of "Lincoln's Last Debate" by noted Lincoln author Gene Griessman in the visitors center. It's billed as a reading of Abraham Lincoln paying a visit to the Obama White House. Tickets are \$10. Call 584-4353.

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<http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Uncertainty-over-Grant-Cottage-4833274.php>

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1. Most News



# **THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK, SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CARE AND PRESERVATION OF DEPARTMENT ARTIFACTS AND RECORDS

COMMITTEE

Jeffrey Albanese, PDC, CHAIRMAN

Matthew Hereford, PCC

May 2, 2014

Dear Commander Pugsley and Brothers of the Department of New York:

Please let this serve as the findings and recommendations of Special Committee on care and preservation of Department artifacts and records. I along with committee member Hereford have had in the past an opportunity to be involved with the Department's collections and artifacts as will heretofore be explained and therefore have some familiarity with its contents and the conditions of which it has been kept and displayed. In addition, I sit on the Board of Trustees of Museum Village, including 3 terms as Board chair, of a small state chartered living history museum that has over 25,000 artifacts and accordingly have a familiarity with museum policies and procedures.

This committee was formed pursuant to Department Order # 2 dated May 31, 2013 in accordance with a resolution adopted by the 130<sup>th</sup> Encampment of the Department of New York held in Ithaca, New York in May 2013. The genesis of this committee however dates back to the 128<sup>th</sup> Encampment held in Albany, New York when Brother Wheaton, PDC proposed that the Department explore the possibility of donating its collection to Cornell University or similar entity and such proposal was adopted by that Encampment. In accordance with that resolution and other concerns, I as Department Commander issued Department Order # 2 (second series) dated August 14, 2011, which charged the Department's existing GAR & SUVCW Property and Artifacts Committee, headed by the Department Archivist, to study that proposal and in addition come up with policies for the collections care, protection and custody and report its findings and recommendations as to policies and procedures to the 129<sup>th</sup> Department Encampment. The Committee failed to complete its task and file any report with the 129<sup>th</sup> Department Encampment and once again, I as Department Commander issued Department Order # 3 (third series) dated July 11, 2012 directing that committee to complete its task and report to the 130<sup>th</sup> Department Encampment. While that committee did file a report at the 130<sup>th</sup> Encampment, it wholly failed to address the issues concerned, it failed to make any recommendations or develop any policies. What was most troubling however was the report, written by the Archivist, indicated that the reasoning for failing to complete its mission was that he was "to close to the subject to provide a truly unbiased opinion.....(that he) spent considerable .... time locating and adding new pieces....because (he) worked so closely with this collection, it is difficult for (him) to even conceive of placing it with another entity or organization ....." Because of this seeming sense of possession by the Archivist, I proposed the resolution forming this committee. One benefit of this process however was that the Archivist produced an inventory of the records and artifacts of the Department although disturbingly it also reflected a comingling of the collection with what he purported to be his own personal collection.

The concerns, I referred to above included several experiences I personally had with the then Archivist and the collection. These included discovering that a portion of what I believe to be the



collection had been loaned as part of an Eagle Scout project for display at the Goshen Town Hall from approximately 2006-2007 without a written record of such loan. Secondly, in approximately 2009 the Department Archivist entered into a relationship with the new Putnam County Veterans Museum to display the collection at their new facility in a Putnam County park. Said relationship had been fostered through the Admiral Worden Camp including special committee member Matthew Hereford and one of their members who was also a Putnam County Legislator. The proposal seemed ideal but because of a personality conflict that quickly developed between the Department Archivist and the Museum's governance committee a demand was made by the County for its immediate removal from the museum. In addition, there was an apparent dispute over the terms and conditions concerning the care, use and display of the Departments collection. Because of the conflict, I had to become involved and make the arrangements to have the collection picked up and be present at the museum when they were removed. During this time, it was discovered that the Archivist had never entered into any written agreement with that museum concerning the display of the collection or its return, which may have helped resolve some of the disputes. These concerns were further heightened in 2012 when I sought to arrange for the Departments collection to be displayed at Museum Village for their annual Civil War days. During this process, the Museum Director informed me that the archivist was making many unreasonable demands concerning the display conditions, insisting on rigid climate control monitoring which was especially burdensome for a small museum. Eventually a compromise was reached; and I assisted the museum director in moving the collection to the museum. At that time, the archivist had the collection stored in a facility at a county park in Westchester County. When we arrived at the storage facility both the museum director and I were shocked by the collections storage conditions. It was kept in a hot locked closet with items piled on top of each other. We were especially surprised with the conditions in view of the very rigid demands he had made regarding their display at Museum Village. Once again, we discovered that there was no written agreement between the Department and the storage facility concerning the storage or the ownership of the collection. In fact at no time did the Archivist ever enter into any written agreement for the loan or storage of the Departments records or collections other than with Museum Village and then only due to my insistence and the policy of Museum Village. A copy of this very detailed Museum Village inventory is attached and should be compared with the inventory produced in 2013 by the Archivist and with the items turned over by the former Department Archivist after he was suspended.

Once appointed the Special committee began its work by first collecting the work performed by GAR & SUVCW Property and Artifacts Committee. This consisted of their 2012 midyear report and 2013 Encampment report along with a email survey conducted by the Archivist of other Departments concerning collections, care display etc. That survey indicated that many Departments have similar problems and concerns, as does the Department of New York. Some have entered into arrangement with local repositories and some have the assistance of professionals. Many are still searching for a solution. The one thing it made clear to us is that we should not be in the artifact collection business

In addition, the committee sought information on the history of the collection and of the Archivist position. As such, both former Archivist Danny Wheeler and then Archivist Michael Bennett provided us information. Mr. Bennett provided a lengthy discourse on his view of the collection and his care for it. One of his disclosures was that well before he was the Department Archivist he was accepting and collecting Civil War and Civil War veterans' collections and artifacts on behalf of the Department and keeping them in his possession. In addition, the committee sought input from the members of the GAR & SUVCW Property and Artifacts Committee. Consulted with a Kristina Braell who has some expertise in this area and did some research concerning potential repositories, which included the New



York State Archives, The New York Military Museum & Veterans Research Center, West Point Museum and the National Civil War Museum.

As a result of that work, the following findings were made:

1. The Department has no resources to properly care for or exhibit such items and is unlikely to ever obtain such resources.
2. That the continued maintenance of such items in the homes of Department or camp officers and under uncertain conditions fails to carry out the Sons mission of keeping the memory of our Union soldiers green and preserving it memory;
3. There is no definitive inventory of the Department items;
4. There are no written guidelines for the loan or display of the collection to internal or external entities;
5. There is too much reliance on the Archivist to be the sole voice in the storage, loaning and display of the collection and there are no accountability procedures in place;
6. There are no policies or plans to properly manage, store, protect the items now in our possession;
7. There is no plan or policy encouraging that the collection be displayed to the public, SUVCW members, or researchers.
8. There is no policy concerning the continued acquisition of such items.
9. That the holding of the dual position of both Department Secretary and Department Archivist creates a potential conflict and therefore should not be held by the same individual.

As to the Department collection and records, it essentially contains four parts. One part consists of Department SUVCW records both old and of recent vintage, along with former camp charters and records. The second part consists of original GAR Post records for several posts that were located within New York State. The third part consists of purported civil war memorabilia and civil war veteran and GAR memorabilia including ribbons, pins, and the like. The fourth part consists of books about the Civil War and Civil War themed drawings and prints and some posters.

It is apparent that good portions of the inventory consist of items of little value or of little interest to a museum. Much of the memorabilia lack any provenance to authenticate the item. For example, there is a brick purportedly from Libby Prison, a horse-bit purportedly from Lookout Mountain, tree fragments with embedded bullets purportedly from Gettysburg; and tree fragments with embedded bullets purportedly from Chickamauga none with any proof of the accuracy of the claim. There is however, a wonderful collection of GAR and Allied Order badges and associated items.

There is also a quantity of old GAR records, which in our opinion may be the most valuable portion of the Departments collection. What to do with them and whether we even have the choice of keeping them was recently addressed at the National Encampment held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin this past August when that Encampment adopted a Policy on Records of the GAR. Essentially it states that it is the SUVCW policy that the SUVCW is to identify their location, assist in their preservation, assist in their transfer to libraries, museums or similar repositories for long term preservation and public availability and that the SUVCW will only take such records as a last resort and then only to transfer



them to such repositories. Therefore, it is clear then that those GAR records that we do have should be transferred to such repositories.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Special Committee would recommend that the State Archives or the New York Military Museum and Veteran Research Center might be appropriate repositories for the Department's GAR records. That the Archivist in consultation with the Department GAR & SUVCW Property and Artifacts Committee explore transferring them to those institutions or some other suitable repository within the state in accordance with the National Policy and transfer them as soon as practicable.
2. The Department of New York has neither the facilities nor resources to properly protect or display Civil War or Civil War veterans' artifacts or collectibles. Therefore, it is the policy of the Department of New York to neither solicit nor accept such artifacts or collectibles other than as a last resort in order to preserve or protect them from imminent loss to the public and future generations.
3. It is the policy of the Department of New York that its artifacts and collection be displayed for the public to see if possible.
4. That the Department Encampment adopt the above as policies of the Department along with additional policies for the care, protection and custody by adopting the attached PROPOSED DEPARTMENT POLICIES CONCERNING THE ARCHIVES, RECORDS, ARTIFACTS AND COLLECTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK, SUVCW

A Copy of this report should be provided to the Department Archivist.

Respectfully submitted

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

*Jeffrey Albanese, PDC*

Committee Chairman

## APPENDIX

(attached to original report only)

1. Department Order #2 dated May 31, 2013 Robert Pugsley Commander
2. Resolution to Appoint a Special Committee -adopted 130<sup>th</sup> Encampment
3. Department Order #3 (second series) dated July 11, 2012 Jeffrey Albanese Commander
4. Department Order #2 (third series) dated August 15, 2011 Jeffrey Albanese Commander
5. Mid-Year Report 2012-2013 Department GAR & SUVCW Property and Artifacts Committee
6. Encampment Report: 2012-2013 Department GAR & SUVCW Property and Artifacts Committee
7. Department Archivist SUVCW Departments Survey and responses
8. Comments and emails of Archivist Michal Bennett concerning history of the collection
9. Email comments from former Department archivist Danny Wheeler
10. Email comments from Department GAR & SUVCW Property and Artifacts Committee member David Dziejwski
11. Comments of Kristina Braell
12. 2012 Inventory of Archives, Records and Collection by Archivist Michael Bennett
13. Museum Village Inventory of Department Items displayed at Museum Village 2012-2013
14. 2013 National Policy on Gar Records
15. Proposed Policies Concerning the Archives, Records, Artifacts and Collections of the Department of New York



**PROPOSED DEPARTMENT POLICIES CONCERNING THE ARCHIVES, RECORDS, ARTIFACTS AND  
COLLECTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK, SUVCW**

Presented to the Department of New York Encampment, Rochester, N.Y. May 2014

**DEPARTMENT SECRETARY**

1. The Department Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining and preserving all current records and documents of the Department of New York, including but not necessarily limited to, correspondence, Camp, Department and National reports, members applications and associated documents, Department Proceedings and any other records required to be kept by the Department Secretary pursuant to National Regulations or policies or by virtue of the Department Bylaws or policies.
2. The Department Secretary shall provide a written signed annual report to the Department Encampment detailing generally the records and documents so held and their current location, copies of said report shall also be provided to the Department Archivist and webmaster and posted on the members' only portion of the website.
3. The Department Secretary shall turn over annually to the Department Archivist any and all records and documents in his possession that are more than ten years old and shall provide a list of said items so turned over to the Department Archivist, signed by both the Department Secretary and Department Archivist, to the annual Department Encampment.

**DEPARTMENT ARCHIVIST**

1. The Department Archivist cannot also hold the position of Department Secretary.
2. The Department Archivist shall be responsible for the proper maintenance and preservation of Department archives, records, artifacts and collections other than those, which may be in the possession of the Department Secretary or other Department officers by virtue of the National Regulations or policies or by virtue of the Department Bylaws or policies.
3. The Department Archivist shall provide a written signed annual report to the Department Encampment detailing the contents of the archives, records, artifacts and collections so held and their current location. Copies of said report shall be provided by the Department Archivist to the Department Secretary and webmaster and posted on the members' only portion of the website.
  - a.) To the extent said archives, records, artifacts and collections are to be stored at locations other than in the personal possession of the archivist the archivist must, upon notice to the Department Commander, enter into a written signed storage agreement with the owner of such storage detailing the archives, records, artifacts and collections so stored there, the terms of the storage and ensuring that the Department Archivist or if said position becomes vacant the Department Commander or his designee may remove them from said storage upon minimal notice. The Department Archivist shall provide a copy of said storage agreement to the Department Secretary and the members of the Department GAR & SUVCW Property and Artifacts Committee.
4. The Department Archivist shall follow the National Policy on Records of the Grand Army of the Republic and shall make arrangements to transfer any such written records currently in the possession of the Department or which may come into the possession of the Department to suitable museums, libraries other similar institutions or repositories in accordance with said national policy upon consultation with the Department GAR & SUVCW Property and Artifacts Committee and notice to the Department Commander. The Department Archivist shall make a report of any such transfer to next Department Encampment.
5. It is the policy of the Department that its artifacts and collection be displayed for the public to see if possible. Accordingly, the Archivist is authorized, to enter into loan agreements with suitable museums,



libraries, historical associations or similar entities within New York State to exhibit said artifacts or collection or portion thereof. It is also the policy of the Department that the Department artifacts and collections be kept together if possible. Said loan agreement shall be in writing signed by both the archivist on behalf of the Department and the exhibiting entity. Prior to entering into said agreement the Department Archivist shall in consultation with the Department GAR & SUVCW Property and Artifacts Committee conduct a due diligence investigation into the integrity and suitability of the proposed museum, library, historical association or similar entity who seeks said loan. Said loan agreement shall at a minimum contain the following terms:

- a.) The length of the loan;
- b.) The minimum conditions under which the artifacts and collection shall be kept including the light, heat, humidity, security and protection from the elements which conditions should not be unreasonable keeping in mind the resources available to the entity in which the items are to be loaned. However, at the minimum the artifacts and collection shall not be exposed to excess heat or cold, moisture or direct sunlight and shall not be accessible to handling by the public;
- c.) The exhibit or exhibits shall contain written information posted with the exhibit(s) indicating that the exhibit or exhibits are on loan from the Department of New York, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War;
- d.) The condition or conditions under which the agreement may be terminated early by either party but under no event shall said termination as against the Department of New York be made absent 30 days written notice to the Department.

In addition, the Department Archivist should investigate whether the entity has its exhibits insured and if so make sure the Department and its artifacts and or collections forming the exhibit or exhibits are included in said coverage.

The Department Archivist shall provide a copy of said written loan agreement to the Department Secretary and the members of the Department Property and Artifacts Committee.

6. The Department of New York has neither the facilities nor resources to properly protect or display Civil War or Civil War veterans artifacts or collectible and therefore it is the policy of the Department of New York to neither solicit nor accept such artifacts or collectibles other than as a last resort in order to preserve or protect them from imminent loss to the public and future generations. To the extent, such items are obtained the Department Archivist shall immediately forward that fact to the Department Commander.

7. When there is a change in the Department Archivist the immediate past Department Archivist shall within ten (10) days after the appointment of the new Department Archivist forward to his successor all department archives, collections and artifacts, along with an current inventory of same to be signed by both parties and provided to the Department Secretary along with any and all storage and loan agreements currently in effect.

8. These Policies shall be posted on the Department Website.



# **Recommendations And Resolutions**

## **New York State Battle Flag Collection Resolution**

**WHEREAS,** The New York State Battle Flag Collection, includes over eight hundred National, and Regimental Civil War Battle Flags. These Glorious Banners were carried by our New York ancestor. These men bravely fought and died defending them in the War of the Rebellion 1861-1865.

**WHEREAS,** The men who fought under these grand symbols looked upon them with loving admiration and great reverence, for they understood above all the blood that was shed fighting under the flags of their state and union.

**WHEREAS,** These simple cloths on a pole which were the one true item in each fighting unit that gave the unit its honor, devotion, identity, direction, and determination in battle.

**WHEREAS,** the State of New York recognized the importance of these patriotic symbols of sacrifice and devotion and in accordance with a circular dated January 21, 1863, wherein Adjutant General John Sprague expresses: *"That all regimental colors, worn out in service, and of consolidated regiments, be forwarded to General Headquarters so that they may be deposited in an appropriate manner as a record of the war and fortitude of her sons"*

**WHEREAS,** In the words, of Major General Daniel Butterfield and as history recorded on July 3, 1865 *"These standards are returned, battle-scarred, hallowed by the blood of your patriot sons - a precious treasure, a priceless legacy, for they shall tell your children's children of manhood and patriotism rising in their might to sustain the right. These are glorious insignia of the highest devotion and sacrifice of man for man, of man for country. I may ask you . . . that you cherish them . . . as proud mementoes of the triumph of right."*

**WHEREAS,** To honor and display the flag in this vast collection, each was furled on its staff and placed in a glass case for storage and viewing at the State Capital. The flag collection would continue to grow, today there are over 2,000 military flags dating from the War of 1812 to present. Nearly a century and a half of poor storage has subjected these flags to the harmful effects of humidity, light, gravity and temperature variance. These glorious banners are in poor condition and will continue to deteriorate until they receive proper care and improved storage conditions.

**WHEREAS,** In 2000, the New York State Military Museum in conjunction with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation with funding from the State of New York began work on the New York State Battle Flag Preservation Project. The projects goals were to implement a preservation program and create a flag archive for the conservation, storage and study of the Battle Flag Collection. The Flag Preservation project has conserved over five



hundred flags. Despite these efforts, nearly 75-percent of the collection (including about half of the Civil War flags) still awaits preservation and proper storage.

**WHEREAS,** Since the year 2009 New York State funding for the Battle Flag Preservation Project has ceased. These sacred banners are now facing their most challenging battle, that of time. Without state funding, the future of these patriotic symbols of sacrifice and devotion are in jeopardy.

**WHEREAS,** The Sons of Union Veterans, established to perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and the men who saved the Union. and in accordance with the mission of this organization, as described in the words of Major Augustus P. Davis in December of 1881 : ***“That through this organization the declining days of the Union Veteran will be made pleasant, his record of service to his country preserved, his memory honored, patriotism promoted”.***

**WHEREAS,** Reminiscent of our patriotic forefathers who rallied around the flag in defense of our state and nation, we the Sons of Union Veterans must ***“Rally Round the Flags”*** and come to the defense of these precious treasures, for they truly are the record of their service to this country.

**WHEREAS,** the Department of New York, and its camps has an obligation to its ancestral son's to preserve these glorious banners and honor their memory and their record of service to the State of New York and the Union.

**BE IT RESOLVED,** That a special 5 year committee be created ***“The Rally Round the Flags Committee”*** to bring together jointly all the State Camps of the Son's of Union Veterans of the Civil War for the purpose of initiating a writing and lobbying campaign to reinstate funding for the New York State Battle Flag Preservation Project. That State funding shall be allocated on an annual basis until the flag collection has completely been conserved and archived. Said committee shall be responsible for bring all the State Camps of the Department of New York, Son's of Union Veterans of the Civil War to Albany for the purpose of lobbying in both the Senate and Assembly of the New York State Legislature. The goal of this committee shall be to see this endeavor of the preservation of the flag collection through to its fruition. In addition, a copy of this resolution shall appear on the Department website.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** the 131<sup>st</sup> Encampment of the Department of New York, Son's of Union Veterans of the Civil War hereby declares support for the afore stated effort. Furthermore the encampment authorized the funds needed to ensure that the ***“The Rally Round the Flags Committee”*** can provide the leadership in its effort to save these ***“proud mementoes of the triumph of right.”***



**RESOLUTION TO AMEND CHAPTER V ARTICLE VI OF THE NATIONAL  
REGULATIONS OF THE SUVCW BY ADDING A SECTION 26.**

**WHEREAS**, the National Regulations Chapter V Article VI provide for the discipline of members of SUVCW; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 1 of said Article list 5 offenses cognizable by the SUVCW ; and

**WHEREAS**, the first 3 offenses listed include disloyalty to the United States, or any violation of any pledge given at the time of election to the Order or of any obligation when assuming office, or disobedience to the Constitution, bylaw, rule, regulation or policy of the order or by the commission of any serious misdemeanor or felony crime against the United States, state or commonwealth all of which are very serious and substantial offenses and contrary to the very underpinning and tenets of the Order; and,

**WHEREAS**, the penalties for the offenses include a dishonorable discharge from the order in which the accused may never again become a member of the Order and that the violation of the above offenses would normally warrant such a penalty; and

**WHEREAS**, an dishonorable discharge recognizes and signifies to the entire organization the severity of the conduct of the accused and that he has brought dishonor upon himself and the order by breaking his sacred oath; and

**WHEREAS**, an accused may currently simply resign an avoid the imposition of any penalty; and

**WHEREAS**, by allowing the accused to escape that potential penalty it permits him to have no record of any kind of discharge and secondly gives the accused the possibility, even if remote, of once again becoming a member of this Order, when in a decade or even two memories have faded and the hand of charity is upon us or our successors he could not seek and be allowed to return to the Order, and

**WHEREAS**, to permit this would be a blow to the integrity and honor of the and contrary to the very meaning of discipline in the Order;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that a section 26 be added to Chapter V Article VI of the National Regulations, which states:

26. That irrespective of any regulations to the contrary a member of the Order who resigns while accusations in the form of charges are pending against him alleging offenses enumerated as First, Second or Third under section one of this article such resignation shall be deemed a plea of "no contest" to the charges and said member shall be issued a Dishonorable Discharge from the Order.

Submitted May 3, 2014 by Jeffrey Albanese, PDC Department of New York



**Recommendations submitted to the New York Department, SUVCW  
on the Occasion of the 131<sup>st</sup> Annual Encampment held May 2-4, 2014  
in Rochester, NY**

1. The Department Commander appoint an Encampment Guide Committee whose purpose is to create a comprehensive guide to planning the Annual Encampment. In the past the planning has been left to a few individuals which has now shown can create problems. This guide is not a mandatory set of rules but a guideline on what to do and what to cover.

The committee is to report to the 2015 Annual Encampment.

2. The Department Commander appoint a Proceedings Committee to try to attempt to compile as best as possible the missing Proceedings from the past several years.
3. The Department Commander appoint a committee to come up with a manual of Department Officer's duties. The National C&R and the Department By-Laws do not adequately cover all the duties and responsibilities of the Department Officers, elected and appointed.

Submitted in F, C, and L,



Robert Pugsley

NY Dept Commander

SUVCW

**A proposal for the modification of the by-laws by the Council  
Department of New York**

Article IX sections 1 – 3 as presented below in their entirety

Article  
IX  
Department Council

Section 1.

The Department Council shall have at least two stated meetings each year, the first of which shall be held immediately after the installation of its members and after the final adjournment of the Encampment. At this meeting they shall organize, electing a Chairman and Secretary, and shall act upon any bills of the Department Officers for allowable expenses, which may be presented to them, in detail and regular form.

Section 2.

The second stated meeting shall be held prior to and at the same place as the Department Encampment. Said meeting shall be for the purpose of a full audit of the Department books and accounts and for the consideration of such other business as may be brought to their attention.

Section 3.

The Department Council shall keep a full and detailed record of its proceedings and shall present a report to the Department Encampment. Two members thereof shall constitute a quorum at any meeting. Special meetings are the subject to the call of the Department Commander or Chairman of the Department Council.

Shall be modified as follows

Section 1.

The Department Council shall have at least two meetings each year. The first meeting shall be held immediately after the installation of its members after the final adjournment of the Encampment. At this meeting they shall organize, elect a Chairman and Secretary, and act upon any bills of the Department Officers for allowable expenses, which may be presented to them, in detail and regular form.

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Section 2.

The second stated meeting shall be held prior to the Annual Department Encampment. This meeting shall be for the purpose of a full audit of the Department books and accounts and for the consideration of such other business as may be brought to their attention. This meeting:

- Shall be a continuation of a review of receipts, expenditures and books of account presented to the Council by the Treasurer at the mid-year Department meeting;
- Shall be held via email and/or conference call if the mid-year meeting cannot be held;

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131st ENCAMPMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW  
YORK

REVISED BYLAW PROPOSALS OF THE  
DEPARTMENT TREASURER OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Respectfully submitted by:  
Jeffrey Albanese, PCC  
Department Acting Treasurer

Department of New York  
SUVCW

## **ARTICLE VII "Headquarters and Officers"**

**IT IS PROPOSED** that the Bylaws of the Department of New York, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War be amended as follows:

That section (4) Article VII last paragraph be amended by adding the following sentence to the end of said paragraph:

*"Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in these bylaws evidence of these expenses shall be provided to the Department Council or their designee for approval prior to reimbursement."*

Said paragraph will then read:

*The Department Secretary shall be reimbursed for expenses up to and including four hundred dollars (\$400.00) per year. If serving as Secretary/Treasurer, he shall be reimbursed for total expenses for both offices of up to five hundred twenty five dollars (\$525) per year.*

*Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in these bylaws evidence of these expenses shall be provided to the Department Council or their designee for approval prior to reimbursement.*

That section (5) Article VII be amended by deleting the first paragraph in its entirety and replacing it as follows:

"The Department Treasurer shall keep accurate record of all his financial transactions and shall deposit all funds in a bank, or other depository, institution or account which has been approved of by the Department Council at least once each month. The Department Treasurer shall also cause an original copy of each banking statement from each Department account to be sent to the Department Treasurer with a duplicate copy to the Department Commander. (This may be done electronically). In addition, the Treasurer shall include the Department Commander as an additional name on the said Department banking accounts however, the Department Commander shall not be authorized to issue checks, or debits, or make any deposits or withdrawals, or make any transfers from said Department accounts. The Treasurer shall pay bills when properly audited and approved for payment by the Department Council or which have been authorized by these bylaws or which have been authorized in the Department budget as approved by the Department Encampment. The Department Treasurer shall be reimbursed for expenses up to two hundred twenty five dollars (\$225) per year. Or, if serving as a Secretary/Treasurer, he shall be reimbursed for total expenses for both offices of up to five hundred twenty five dollars (\$525) per year. Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in these bylaws evidence of these expenses shall be provided to the Department Council or their designee for approval prior to reimbursement."



Said section will then read:

*The Department Treasurer shall keep accurate record of all his financial transactions and shall deposit all funds in a bank, or other depository, institution or account which has been approved of by the Department Council at least once each month. The Department Treasurer shall also cause an original copy of each banking statement from each Department account to be sent to the Department Treasurer with a duplicate copy to the Department Commander. (This may be done electronically). In addition, the Treasurer shall include the Department Commander as an additional name on the said Department banking accounts however, the Department Commander shall not be authorized to issue checks, or debits, or make any deposits or withdrawals, or make any transfers from said Department accounts. The Treasurer shall pay bills when properly audited and approved for payment by the Department Council or which have been authorized by these bylaws or which have been authorized in the Department budget as approved by the Department Encampment. The Department Treasurer shall be reimbursed for expenses up to two hundred twenty five dollars (\$225) per year. Or, if serving as a Secretary/Treasurer, he shall be reimbursed for total expenses for both offices of up to five hundred twenty five dollars (\$525) per year. Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in these bylaws evidence of these expenses shall be provided to the Department Council or their designee for approval prior to reimbursement.*

That section (5) Article VII be amended by adding the following second paragraph to said section:

*"At least one week but not more than 2 weeks prior to the Department Encampment business meeting the Department Treasurer shall transmit to the Department Council Chairman for dissemination to the Department Council copies of all of the Department books and accounts reflecting all financial activity since the prior Encampment. Said books and accounts shall include but necessarily be limited to copies of all Department monthly bank statements for all accounts, check and deposit registers, investment and CD account statements along with a copy of the most recently adopted budget of the Department and the prior Encampment's Treasurers report and financial statement. In addition, in the event of a Department midyear meeting the Treasurer, if requested by the Council Chairman, shall make available for review by the Department Council at said midyear meeting copies of all monthly bank account statements issued since the prior Encampment."*

Said section will then read in its entirety:

*The Department Treasurer shall keep accurate record of all his financial transactions and shall deposit all funds in a bank, or other depository, institution or account which has been approved of by the Department Council at least once each month. The Department Treasurer shall also cause an original copy of each banking statement from each Department account to be sent to the Department Commander with a duplicate copy to the Department Treasurer. He shall pay*



*bills when properly audited and approved for payment by the Department Commander. The Department Treasurer shall be reimbursed for expenses up to two hundred twenty five dollars (\$225) per year. Or, if serving as a Secretary/Treasurer, he shall be reimbursed for total expenses for both offices of up to five hundred twenty five dollars (\$525) per year. Evidence of said expenses shall be provided to the Department Council or their designee for approval prior to reimbursement.*

*At least one week but not more than 2 weeks prior to the Department Encampment business meeting the Department Treasurer shall transmit to the Department Council Chairman for dissemination to the Department Council copies of all of the Department books and accounts reflecting all financial activity since the prior Encampment. Said books and accounts shall include but necessarily be limited to copies of all Department monthly bank statements for all accounts, check and deposit registers, investment and CD account statements along with a copy of the most recently adopted budget of the Department and the prior Encampment's Treasurers report and financial statement. In addition, in the event of a Department midyear meeting the Treasurer, if requested by the Council Chairman, shall make available for review by the Department Council at said midyear meeting copies of all monthly bank account statements issued since the prior Encampment.*

## **ARTICLE IX "Department Council"**

**IT IS PROPOSED** that the Bylaws of the Department of New York, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War be amended as follows:

That section (2) Article IX be amended by deleting the words "at the same place as" and adding the following sentence to the end of said paragraph:

"Said audit shall include but is not limited to examining copies of monthly bank statements for all Department accounts, check and deposit registers, copies of actual investment and CD account statements if any. In addition the Department Council shall have a duty to have examined the prior Encampment's Treasurer's report and financial reports and the prior Department Encampment approved budget during its audit process."

Said section will then read in its entirety:

*The second stated meeting shall be held prior to the Department Encampment. Said meeting shall be for the purpose of a full audit of the Department books and accounts and for the consideration of such other business as may be brought to its attention. Said audit shall include but is not limited to examining copies of monthly bank statements for all Department accounts*



*check and deposit registers, copies of actual investment and CD account statements if any. In addition, the Department Council shall have a duty to have examined the prior Encampment's Treasurer's report and financial reports and the prior Department Encampment approved budget during its audit process.*

# By-Laws





**By-Laws**  
**of**  
**The Department of New York**  
**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**



**Article I**

***Name***

- Section 1. This Organization shall be known as the Department of New York, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

**Article II**

***Department Symbol***

- Section 1. The symbol of the Department of New York shall be a Red Maltese Cross with Gold border, known as the badge of the Nineteenth Army Corps.

**Article III**

***Encampments***

- Section 1. The dates and location of the annual Encampment of the Department of New York shall be selected by a committee, known as the Department Encampment Committee, consisting of two (2) members/associates of the Department appointed by the Department Commander, along with the Department Commander as an ex-officio member. The Department

## ***Revenue***

- Section 1. The *Charter Fee* for a new Camp shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). Such fee, in the form of a check or money order payable to New York Dept., SUVCW, will accompany the application for permission to form a Camp.
- Section 2. Each Camp shall pay to the Department, as per capita tax on each and every member on the *Camp Roster*, the sum of at least four dollars (\$4) per year. Life Members shall be exempt from per capita dues assessed by the Department. Additional per capita dues may be payable to the Department in order to pay per capita dues owed to the National Organization.
- Section 3. A registration fee shall be assessed against each member/associate attending all or any part of every Department Encampment. The amount of the registration fee shall be set by vote of the Department Council at the preceding Department Encampment based upon the recommendation of the Encampment Committee. The total amount received at any *Encampment* shall be duly received by the Department Treasurer. Any unused portion of any registration fees shall revert to the *General Fund*.

## **Article V**

### ***Expenses***

- Section 1. The entire expenditure of the Department Commander shall be charged to Organization work and calculated on a yearly basis, not to exceed seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00).
- Section 2. The Department Commander, if attending all sessions of the *Department Encampment*, shall be allowed hotel expenses.
- Section 3. The actual transportation and hotel expenses of the *Department Commander*, incurred in attending the meeting of the *Commandery-in-Chief* shall be paid by the Department. This amount shall not exceed the sum of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).
- Section 4. No expenses shall be incurred by any Department Officer, elective or appointive, without direct authorization of the Department Commander, except as is included in the budget approved by the previous Department Encampment, or as herein otherwise provided.
- Section 5. The Department shall maintain an annual membership in "The Friends of the Ulysses S. Grant Cottage, Inc." at the "Patron" level.



The Department Secretary shall keep on file copies of each member's application, as well as a chronological roster of members based on the date of joining the Order. This roster will include, but is not limited to, name of member, date of joining, Camp, Civil War ancestor and unit or ship served with during the Civil War.

The Department Secretary shall be reimbursed for expenses up to and including four hundred dollars (\$400.00) per year. If serving as a Secretary/Treasurer, he shall be reimbursed for total expenses for both offices of up to five hundred twenty five dollars (\$525) per year. Evidence of said expenses shall be provided to the Department Council or their designee for approval prior to reimbursement.

Section 5. The Department Treasurer shall keep accurate record of all his financial transactions and shall deposit all funds in a bank, or other depository, institution or account which has been approved of by the Department Council at least once each month. The Department Treasurer shall also cause an original copy of each banking statement from each Department account to be sent to the Department Commander with a duplicate copy to the Department Treasurer. He shall pay bills when properly audited and approved for payment by the Department Commander. The Department Treasurer shall be reimbursed for expenses up to two hundred twenty five dollars (\$225) per year. Or, if serving as a Secretary/Treasurer, he shall be reimbursed for total expenses for both offices of up to five hundred twenty five dollars (\$525) per year. Evidence of said expenses shall be provided to the Department Council or their designee for approval prior to reimbursement.

At least one week but not more than 2 weeks prior to the Department Encampment business meeting the Department Treasurer shall transmit to the Department Council Chairman for dissemination to the Department Council copies of all of the Department books and accounts reflecting all financial activity since the prior Encampment. Said books and accounts shall include but necessarily be limited to copies of all Department monthly bank statements for all accounts, check and deposit registers, investment and CD account statements along with a copy of the most recently adopted budget of the Department and the prior Encampment's Treasurers report and financial statement. In addition, in the event of a Department midyear meeting the Treasurer, if requested by the Council Chairman, shall make available for review by the Department Council at said midyear meeting copies of all monthly bank account statements issued since the prior Encampment.

Section 6. Authorization from the Department Commander must be obtained by the Department Treasurer before checks in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) are written.

Section 7. The elected Department Junior Vice Commander will have responsibility for coordinating the receipt of new Members-at-Large from our National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief and our National website recruiting program. Upon his receipt of an approved applications and correct

## ***Department Council***

- Section 1. The Department Council shall have at least two stated meetings each year, the first of which shall be held immediately after the installation of its members and after the final adjournment of the Encampment. At this meeting they shall organize, electing a Chairman and Secretary, and shall act upon any bills of the Department Officers for allowable expenses, which may be presented to them, in detail and regular form.
- Section 2. The second stated meeting shall be held prior to the Department Encampment. Said meeting shall be for the purpose of a full audit of the Department books and accounts and for the consideration of such other business as may be brought to their attention. Said audit shall include but is not limited to examining copies of monthly bank statements for all Department accounts, check and deposit registers, copies of actual investment and CD account statements if any. In addition the Department Council shall have a duty to have examined the prior Encampment's Treasurer's report and financial reports and the prior Department Encampment approved budget during its audit process.
- Section 3. The Department Council shall keep a full and detailed record of its proceedings and shall present an Annual Audit to the Department Encampment. This report will be given at the Department Encampment after presentation of, or in conjunction with the Treasurer's report, whichever is most convenient.
- Two members thereof shall constitute a quorum at any meeting. Any additional, special meetings are the subject to the order of the Department Commander or request of the Chairman of the Department Council.

## **Article X**

### ***Committees***

- Section 1. The G.A.R. and SUVCW Artifacts and Property Committee shall consist of the Department Historian, Archivist, Civil War Memorials & Monuments Officer, Counselor, and one additional member of the New York Department. The committee is charged with investigating G.A.R. and SUVCW property possessed by those outside the Order, and to recommend to the Department Commander action which is consistent with the Constitution and Regulations and Policies of the SUVCW.
- Section 2. The Legislation Committee shall consist of at least two members/associates to be appointed by the Department Commander. The committee is charged with watching matters of proposed legislation within the Department which affects the welfare or purposes of the Order or the Constitution, or the welfare of the United States of America, to oppose the same or support the same in accordance with the Constitution and



Camp reports that are submitted incomplete or that contain inaccuracies deemed to be significant by the Department Commander, Department Secretary, or Department Treasurer, will be returned to the submitting Camp for correction. If the report is not corrected and resubmitted to the Department within thirty (30) days of the date it was originally due, the report will be deemed un-submitted.

Any Camp that has not submitted a correct Camp Annual Report Form 27A and Certification of Election and Installation Report Form 22 by April 30<sup>th</sup> or the date of the business meeting of the Department Encampment whichever is earlier will not be allowed representation at the ensuing Department Encampment.

## **Article XII**

### ***Change of Name and Location***

- Section 1. The Department Commander, upon receipt of notice from a Camp desiring to change its name providing each member of said Camp has received thirty days' notice of such change, shall endorse his approval.
- Section 2. The fee for changing name of Camp shall be twenty- five dollars (\$25.00) payable when approved by the Department Commander. This fee will be waived if a replacement *Charter* is not required.

## **Article XIII**

### ***Awards***

- Section 1. The Department of New York has ten (10) awards, which are presented at the annual Encampment.
- A. The Oliver P. Clark Plaque is awarded to the member who recruited the most new members during the year. This figure will be determined by the Department Secretary.
  - B. The PDC John G. Kernan Cup is awarded to the Camp that recruited the most new members during the year. This figure will be determined by the Department Secretary.
  - C. The Department Patriotic Instructor's Award will be presented to any and all Camps that meet criteria as outlined by the Patriotic Instructor.
  - D. The Joseph S. Rippey PC-in-C Memorial Award for Outstanding Service will be awarded to a deserving Brother in the New York Department at the discretion of the Department Commander. In further recognition of their service to the Department, the winners of this award will have their names and the year of the award permanently listed on the Department website.
  - E. The Department Junior Vice Commander's Growth Award will be awarded to each Camp in the New York Department which has

## **Article XV**

### ***Newsletter***

- Section 1. The Department Newsletter the "Volunteer" shall be disseminated to the membership at least three times a year and shall be disseminated exclusively via the website with a downloadable pdf file. An email shall be sent to the membership announcing its availability and directing that each camp signals officer or secretary download and send a copy to any camp member who does not have downloading capability.

## **Article XVI**

### ***By-Laws***

- Section 1. Alterations, amendments, or deletions to these By-Laws shall be made only at a regular session of a Department Encampment, and by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present. All proposed alterations, amendments or deletions to the bylaws must be received either in writing or electronically by the Department Secretary and Department Commander no later than 60 days prior to the Encampment and shall thereafter be published on the Department website as soon as practicable but not later than 10 days prior to the Encampment. Alterations, amendments or deletions received less than 60 days prior to said Encampment cannot be considered until the next succeeding Encampment. The 60 day notice requirement may be waived at the Department Encampment upon two-thirds vote of those voting members present and entitled to vote."
- Section 2. These By-Laws of the Department of New York, and any amendments or additions thereto, shall go into effect immediately after their adoption and approval by the Commander-in-Chief.
- Section 3. The Department Encampment may adopt Departmental Policies relating to certain activities of the Department or its camps concerning, but not necessarily limited to, the use or operations of the Department Website or Department Newsletter. Said policies shall be consistent with and shall not violate the Constitution, Regulations and Policies of the National Order and shall be published on the Department website.

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**Department Commander**

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**Commander-in-Chief**

**May 3, 2014**

**Date**

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**Date**

**Revised and Approved by the 131st Encampment of the Department of New York  
Rochester, New York – May 3, 2014**



**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**  
**Certification of Election and Installation of Department Officers**

Form 49 - Rev. November 2011

(Send to National Headquarters at SUVCW National HQ, 1 Lincoln Circle at Reservoir Park, Suite 240 (Nat'l Civil War Museum Bldg.), Harrisburg PA 17103-2411, within 30 days of installation of Officers - Retain duplicate for Department Records)

From the Department of New York EIN 136165515 to National Executive Director, National Headquarters.

At the Annual Encampment of this Department held at (location) Rochester, NY

On the third day of May, 20 14 the following Officers for the ensuing year were duly elected, appointed, and installed:

**OFFICERS INSTALLED**

Name (First, Middle, Last)	Street/PO Box	City	State	Zip Code	Phone	E-Mail
Department Commander: George J. Weinmann	55 Jewel St	Brooklyn	NY	11222	718 383-3180	giweinmann@aol.com
Senior Vice Commander: Paul F. Ellis-Graham	16 Vanderbilt Dr	Highland Mills	NY	10930	845 928-8945	pellisgr@mw.k12.ny.us
Junior Vice Commander: Matthew Hereford	18 Secor St Suite B	Nelsonville	NY	10516	845 809-5188	outbackmat@aol.com
Council Member 1: Robert Keough	P.O. Box 50 7 Keough Rd	Long Lake	NY	12847	518 624-6010	rpkeough@aol.com
Council Member 2: David Dzewulski	40 Euclid Ave	Troy	NY	12180	518 273-2152	dmdeeze@nycap.rr.com
Council Member 3: Raymond Wheaton	12 Olli Rd	Newfield	NY	14867	607 564-7227	rbw008@yahoo.com
Secretary: Robert Pugsley	1602 West Ave	Middlesex	NY	14502	585 554-3655	flycar@frontiernet.net
Treasurer: Jeffrey ALbanese	19 Gregory Dr	Goshen	NY	10924	845 294-0924	jalb@frontiernet.net
Patriotic Instructor: Daryl VerStreate, Jr	208 Fillmore St	Newark	NY	14513	585 305-9475	daryl_7374@hotmail.com
Chaplain: Arthur P. Kirmss	78-05 82 Street	Glendale	NY	11385	718 628-0818	arthurkirmss@earthlink.net
Graves Registration Officer: Bruce Glaser	70 VanStallen St	Rochester	NY	14621	585 451-8127	indian658@email.com
Historian: Jerome L. Orton	213 Dixon Dr	Syracuse	NY	13219	315 488-4076	orton50@aol.com
Civil War Memorials Officer: Raymond Wheaton	12 Olli Rd	Newfield	NY	14867	607 564-7227	rbw008@yahoo.com
Eagle Scout Coordinator: John P. Portanova	901 Jay Dr	Wantaugh	NY	11793	516 477-3085	None
Counselor: Danny Wheeler	5 Benny Lane	Ithaca	NY	14850	607 272-7314	dwheel2@twcny.rr.com
GAR Highway Officer: Matthew Hereford	18 Secor St Suite B	Nelsonville	NY	10516	845 809-5188	outbackmat@aol.com
Department Organizer:						

Form 49 - Revised November 2011

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