



Dale E. Theetge, PDC
3046 Center Road
Ovid, NY 14521-9556

THE VOLUNTEER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF
THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR





Department of New York

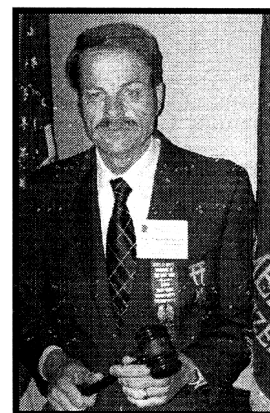


SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
Honoring the memory of more than 450,000 New Yorkers
who answered our

Nation's call

1864-1865

www.suvcw.org/ny/deptny.htm



Department Commander

Dear Brothers,

I am looking forward to the Department Encampment to be held June 5-7 in Binghamton. We embody such a great legacy when we are united with our sister organizations. It is the only time we can truly call ourselves "the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic."

I especially enjoy hearing the "camp reports". We are all justifiably proud of our events, and they inspire other camps to similar efforts.

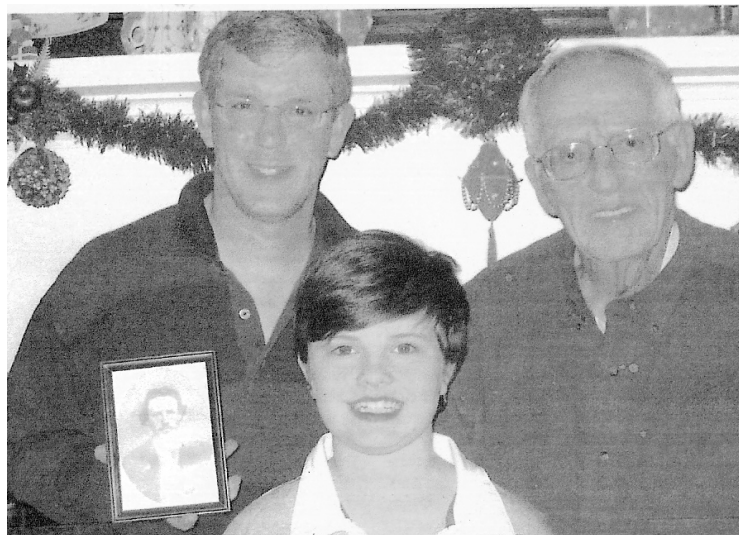
This encampment will be my big send-off, so we are working to make it the best ever. As I look down the line of brothers, I know our Department will be in able hands for years to come.

Don't forget May 30 is the actual Memorial Day. This year May 30 falls on a Saturday, so plan an event, even as simple as placing flowers on your ancestor's grave.

The Old Stone Fort in Schoharie, N.Y. will be hosting a traditional "Decoration Day" on May 30, so join us if you like, or plan your own. See you soon, and keep up the good work.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty.

Peter J. Lindemann, Department Commander



Pictured Left to Right is Son, James Knapp, Grandson, Ryan Knapp and Gordon Knapp, PCC. All members of Homer Searle Camp 114, Bridgewater. James is holding a photo of Rufus Lord, 25th NYV Cavalry from whom they derive their right of membership to the SUVCW

Lucius L. Michell Post 34 G.A. R. St. Cloud, Florida

This photo is of the G.A.R. Post 34 in St. Cloud, Florida. The hall's cornerstone was placed on February 12, 1916 and the Post was formed on December 20, 1909 with charter issued in 1910. The charter members totaled 86 and the Civil War veterans in St Cloud at that time equaled 350.

This hall is in the heart of the St Cloud business district and lies among several streets of businesses that all were founded by G.A.R. members. This city was founded and populated by the G.A.R.. In the very early part of the 20th century the G.A.R promoted several retirement communities for its members through its publication "The National Tribune" and 'Seminole Land and Investment Co.'. This was based on doctors telling the aging veterans that a warmer climate could add 5, 10 or 20 years to their life expectancy. The G.A.R. was instrumental in the founding of St. Cloud as a colony of Union Veterans on the old Disston Plantation. Lots were advertised in the National Tribune and sold for \$50.00 each. So many were sold in the first year that the price was raised to \$100.00 a lot to slow their sale.

By 1910 the town was a growing population of residents and businesses all owned by G.A.R. members and the decision was made to build a two story G.A.R. Hall. The hall is open as a museum three days a week and is a wonderful place to visit. A call ahead is requested. The Museum Hall is located at 1101 Massachusetts Ave in St. Cloud and is open Mon, Tues, Thurs from 10am to 2 pm. Call 1-407-892-6146 for information. Beverly J. Thomas Groshek has been the curator since 1997.

For you to get a better understanding we are reprinting excerpts from a newspaper article by A.S.Cole on December 10, 1914. "Ponce de Leon, the daring explorer searched among the swamps of Florida for the 'Fountain of youth' which the Indians said would restore power and make people young. He tried to find it but Col. John McElroy an Illinois ex-soldier and editor of the National Tribune and author of famous books on the War Between the States 1861-1865 while nosing around in Florida for a place to establish a colony for his old comrades of the cold, blizzard north, discovered St. Cloud in 1909. At the time a place of vast wilderness of pines, palmettos, large and small leaf oak, wire grass, a few rattle snakes, water moccasins and black snakes, sand fleas and a few mosquitoes. Much of that has disappeared as the town site was opened and developed."



Camps in the New York Department

Daniel E. Sickles Camp 3, White Plains, N.Y.
Commander, Michael Bennett, PDC
P.O. Box 1824
White Plains, N.Y. 10602
914-949-4679 spangler@mindspring.com

Abraham Lincoln Camp 6, Rochester, N.Y.
Commander, Peter Braell
216 E. Charlotte Ave. Palmyra, N.Y. 14522
315-597-5422 pabsuv216@hotmail.com

Walter H. French Camp 17
Commander, Jeffery French
123375 Algonquin Trail
Lusby, MD. 20657
Frenchmen@aol.com
Meets last Saturday March, May, September
and November at Carthage Library

Capt. Oliver Tilden Camp 26, NY City
Commander, George J. Weinmann, PCC
55 Jewel St.
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11222
718-383-3180 gjweinmann@aol.com

Sydney Camp 41, Ithaca, N.Y.
Commander, Phil Swaney
3522 W. Covert Rd
Interlaken, N.Y. 14847
607-532-3442 haggus9@yahoo.com

Col John B. Weber Camp 44, Lackawanna, N.Y.
Commander, William M. Tojek, PCC
2925 South Park Ave.
Lackawanna, N.Y. 17218
716-827-6403 bugler44ny@aol.com

Gen. Alexander S. Diven Camp 77, Elmira-Corning
Commander, Christopher D. Paul
511 Davis St.
Elmira, N.Y. 14901
607-733-3281 coney25@aol.com

Homer Searle Camp 114, Bridgewater, N.Y.
Commander Richard Lillie
103 Pheasants Run #1
Clinton, N.Y. 13323
315-853-8574 RA112635@roadrunner.com
Continued

NEWS

SPECIAL NOTE

Parking at the 126th Department Encampment is not without trouble. The parking lot east of the hotel is in ruff shape. However a very nice parking lot is available with easy entrance to the hotel by driving west past the Binghamton Regency and at the west end of the building turn right and proceed to an entrance into the riverside parking lot. The entrance to the hotel and the elevators are right there. Enjoy the stay.

From Jerry Orton comes news that the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154 will have a buffet reception on October 17, 2009 to mark its 110th anniversary .from 5 to 9 pm at the Latham Fire Department Banquet Hall on U.S. RT 9 in Latham. Cost is \$25.00

On September 19-20 the 3rd Civil War/GAR living history event will be held in Congress Park, Saratoga Springs

The old GAR room in the Albany County Court House is now a cafeteria. Named the "Grand Army of the Republic Cafeteria" The county will provide a suitable plaque to be placed on display and a display case will be made available for the camp to display historical items. The camp will have access to the cafeteria for meetings when its not in use..

The National Encampment of the Allied Orders will be held August 13-16, 2009 in Louisville, Kentucky at the Crowne Plaza (formerly Executive West), 830 Phillips Lane. The hotel is located across the interstate from Louisville International Airport. For reservations call 800-626-2708 and mention that you are with the Allied Orders of the G.A.R. Room rates are \$91.00 a night

Diven Camp 77 in Big Flats will have a booth at the Newtown Battlefield Reenactment and at the Historical Society's May Civil War talks on Thursdays. For information call Chris Paul at 607-733-3281

Col. A van Horne Ellis Camp 124, Goshen, N.Y.
Commander, John W. Dickerson, Jr.
52 Wickham Ave
Goshen, N.Y. 10924
845-294-5569, john_Dickerson@bigfoot.com

Stewart-Hope Camp 126, Oneida, N.Y.
Commander Robert V. Heller, PCC
526 Broadway
Oneida, N.Y. 13421
315-363-6299

Corporal James Tanner Camp 134, Cobleskill
Commander, Richard A. Sherman
P.O. Box 395
Schoharie, N.Y. 12157
518-295-8142 rsherman4@nycap.rr.com

Col. David Ireland Camp 137, Endicott
Commander, Michael Swartwood, PCC
623 Park Ave
Binghamton, N.Y. 13903
607-669-4509 smartweed@stny.rr.com

David G. Caywood Camp 146, Ovid
Commander, Jack Hilyer, PCC
20 N. Morrell Ave
Geneva, N.Y. 14456
315-789-5762

Admiral John L. Warden Camp 150, Peakskill
Commander, Robert V. Comegys
124 Edgewood Ave.
Thornwood, N.Y. 10594
914-747-2453 rvc714@verizin.net

Col. George L. Willard Camp 154, Albany
Commander, Raymond W. LeMay III
4 Ball Pl. Watervleit, N.Y. 12189
518-273-9642 rlemay1407@earthlink.net

Schuyler F. Smith Camp 193, Halsey Valley
Commander, R. Stuart Smith, Jr.
1224 Rolfe St.
Palmyra, N.Y. 11522
315-597-9763 rstuartjr@msm.com

Chaplin P.G. Cook Camp 223, Buffalo
Commander, William Rodney Parker
1000 Colvin Blvd
Kenmore, N.Y. 14217
716-876-8943 corsairf4ul@hotmail.com
rodney.parker@gmail.com
Continued

The J. B. Weber Camp 44 reports that the City of Lackawanna will celebrate its centennial from Friday, June 5 through Sunday, June 7 with festivities at the stadium on South Park Avenue. Camp Commander Bill Tojek chairs the Committee for the Civil War related agenda

The Civil War Living History and Battle Reenactment at the Amhurst Museum at 3755 Towanda Creek Road, Amherst is Scheduled for Saturday and Sunday June 20 and 21. Contact the museum at 716-689-1400 for further information

The Genesee Country Village and Museum located in Mumford, N.Y. will host Civil War Living History and Battle Reenactments on July 17 and 19. More information can be gotten by contacting the museum at 585-532-6822

The Weber Camp ceremony to rededicate the Tombstone of Captain Phillip J. Webber will be at noon, Sunday, November 21, 2009 Contact Commander Tojek for further information.

The Daniel E. Sickles Camp 3 reports that a Sickles Camp brother and Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide, James A. Hessler has written a new book on Daniel E. Sickles, published by Savas Beatie, LLC and slated for release this spring. Sickles at Gettysburg promises new information and insights on The Key Affair, the placement and performance of Sickles Third Corps at Gettysburg, as well as the many other controversies in the life of Dan Sickles

The Col. George L. Willard Camp 154 reports a new member of distinction. He is New York State Assemblyman Jack McEneny of the 104th District. His District covers most of the city of Albany And much of Albany County. His address is Legislative Office Building, Room 648 Albany, N.Y. 12248. Send him a welcome. McEneny is interested in his ancestor who served in the 77th NYSV Infantry and died in the war.

Moses Baldwin Camp 544, Hempstead
Commander David Brink
258 Nevada St.
Lindenhurst, N.Y. 11757
671-225-7262 ess3db@aol.com

New York Members-at-Large
Dept. Secretary, Michael Bennett, PDC
P.O. Box 1824
White Plains, N.Y. 10602
914-949-4679 spangler@mindspring.com

Chaplin's Final Muster

Herbert Olson, final muster 8/8/2008
Caywood Camp 146

David B. Nichols, final muster 1/6/2009
Diven Camp 77



Left to Right: Diane Theetge, PP,Aux11, Nancy Karasinski, PDP,DUVCW, Stu Smith, Chaplin Dept. New York, SUVCW, Gloria Fisher, P, Aux SUVCW and Dale Theetge, PDC and First Sgt, Co D, 7th N.Y.Cav at the dedication of a head stone for a Civil War Veteran



Allied Orders officers together at the Auxiliary to Caywood Camp's annual dinner to honor The incoming Auxiliary President, Gloria Fisher and incoming SUVCW Commander, Peter Lindemann

Do not forget to participate in the New York Department Fund Raiser. This is the place most of the Department's money comes from. First prize a Gettysburg Print, second prize a original New York Tribune, telling of the battle between the Monitor and Merrimac, third through 11th prize Civil War prints from the Kelly Museum in Ithaca. Tickets will be available at this year Encampment or from Ray Wheaton Sr.VC 12 Olli Road, Newfield, N.Y. 14867-9792

You can find information on all sorts of things on the Department Website. Like all the information on the Encampment. The easiest way to get there for me is type in a search of SUVCW. That takes you to the National Site. All the National information sites are listed, in the upper right corner is the web index. Hit that and then page down to the Departments. Hit New York and you are there. The Encampment is a very quick item on there.

HOT OFF THE PRESSES

The 26th United States Colard Troops

By request - In Ithaca next to the St. James A.M.E. Zion Church is a monument dedicated to the 26 Black men who enlisted at that church to serve in the 26th USCT. The 26th was raised across New York State and was mustered into service at Rikers Island in the New York City Harbor. Col William B. Guernsey was their Colonel. The 26th was assigned to the Department of the South and saw action on Johns and James Island, Honey Hill, Beaufort and several other battles. During their time of service they had two officers and 28 enlisted men killed in action and three officers and 112 enlisted men die of disease.

Although all officers of Black Regiments were supposed to be white the 26th had as their Chaplin, Benjamin F. Randolph serving as a Black officer. The regiment performed admirably and was mustered out under a new Colonel, William Sillman on August 28, 1865 in Texas. Sydney Camp 41 contributed to the building of this Regiments monument and PDC and Sydney Camp member Dale Theetge talked at the dedication.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of the Past Commander of Caywood Camp in Ovid N.Y., Earl W. Ballard. Earl served as Commander of Caywood Camp 146 and as Jr. Vice Department Commander and personal aide to his son, Ken Ballard, PDC, when he was Department Commander. Earl was not a member at his death. Respects were paid at Earl's funeral by PDC Dale Theetge.

If you visit the New Market battlefield in New Market Va. and you enjoy great Mexican food you need to stop for a bite at Jalisco Mexican Restaurant located at 9403 Congress St, New Market. The Theetges are lovers of good Mexican and cannot say enough good about this restaurant. We highly recommend it.

Sydney Camp 41 has taken on the duties of cleaning the Ithaca Friends of the Library building weekly.

The camp earns money for good causes by doing this. Several projects like Cops, Kids and Toys and Battlefield Preservation have been funded and a committee is looking into others.

Col. Ellis Camp 124 announces the receipt of a grant from the Orange County Historian which will help to fund the erection of a historical plaque marking the area in Goshen, N.Y. in which Camp Wickham, the initial recruitment camp of the 124th New York State Volunteers was located during the summer of 1862. The marker will be erected in the next few months, stay tuned.

Col. Ellis Camp 124 is sponsoring an Eagle Scout project to replace 11 Civil War Veteran stones at the Slate Hill Cemetery. Life Scout John J. McLoughlin, a junior at Goshen High School will head the project. John's father, John McLaughlin is a highly decorated retired police lieutenant and was the last man rescued from the World Trade Towers on September 11, 2001 and the object of Oliver Stones movie "World Trade Center, starring Nicholas Gage and a Civil War history buff.

The Col. David Ireland Camp 137 of Binghamton has sponsored Dickenson 16th Light Artillery, a 21 uniformed man unit of the SVR. They expect to be a big part of the 2009 Encampment as the hosting unit.

An open invitation comes from the Col. David Ireland Camp 137. Do not miss the closing ceremony of the 2009 Encampment of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic on Sunday June 7th. The ceremony will be held at Spring Forest Cemetery and promises to be a really inspiring one.

The Tompkins County Veterans Day Committee will be hosting the 90th Veterans Day Parade in Ithaca on November 8, 2009. The Veterans Day parade is always on the Sunday prior to Veterans Day. The parade will step off at 2pm in the City of Ithaca. A Veterans Day ceremony will be held in DeWitt Park as always on the eleventh hr of the eleventh day of the eleventh month at 11am.

The Tompkins County Veterans Day committee relies on individuals, local businesses and VFW & American Legion Posts as well as all Veterans Organizations in the county for their time and donations for both events. VFW Post 961 sponsors and covers all insurance and riders needed for both events.

Please contact Chairperson Laura Ujlaki at 607-227-5319 or Tompkins County Veterans Day Committee at P.O. Box 6604, Ithaca, N.Y. 14851-6604 or at web site Tompkins County Veterans Day.com

The National Encampment of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R will be held August 13-16, 2009 in Louisville, Kentucky at the Crowne Plaza (formerly Executive West) , 830 Phillips Lane, The hotel is located across the interstate from Louisville International Airport. For reservations call 800-626-2708 and mention that you are with the Allied Orders of the G.A.R. Room rates are \$91.00 a night

Diven Camp 77 in Big Flats will have a booth at the Newtown Battlefield Reenactment and at the Historical Society's May Civil War talks on Thursdays. For information call Chris Paul at 607-733-3281

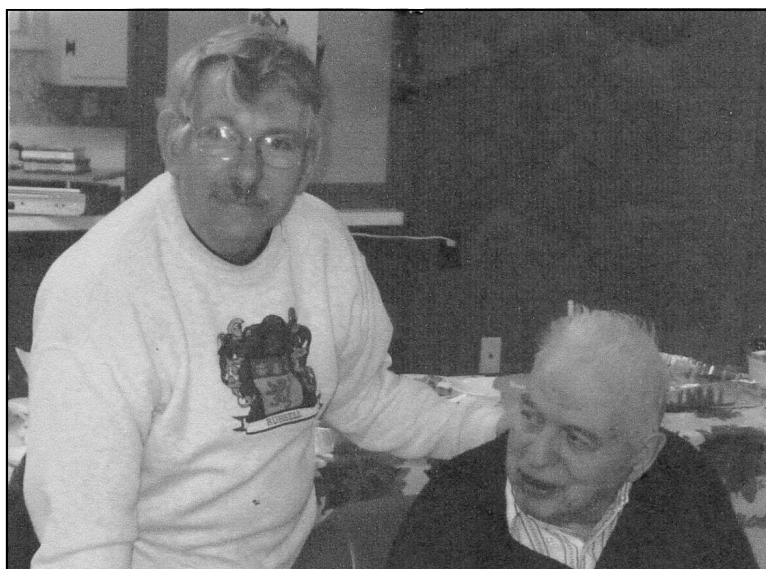
The J.B. Weber Camp 44 reports that the City of Lackawanna will celebrate its centennial from Friday, June 5 through Sunday, June 7 with festivities at the stadium on South Park Avenue. Camp Commander Bill Tojek chairs the Committee for the Civil War related agenda.

The Civil War Living History and Battle Reenactment at the Amherst Museum located at 3755 Tonawanda Creek Road, Amherst is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, June 20 and 21. Contact the museum at 716-689-1400 for further information.

The Genesee County Village and Museum located in Mumford, N.Y. will host Civil War Living History and Battle Reenactments on July 17 and 19. More information can be gotten by contacting the museum at 585-538-6822.

The Weber Camps ceremony to rededicate the tombstone of Captain Phillip J. Weber will be at noon, Saturday, November 21, 2009. Contact Commander Tojek for further information.

The Daniel E. Sickles Camp 3 reports that a Sickles Camp brother and Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide, James A. Hessler, has written a new book on Daniel E. Sickles, Published by Savas Beatie, LLC and slated for release this spring. Sickles at Gettysburg promises new information and insights on the Key Affair, the placement and performance of Sickles Third Corps at Gettysburg, as well as the many other controversies in the life of Dan Sickles.



PDC James Russell and PCnC Richard Greenwalt confer at the annual Auxiliary Dinner in Ovid



Members of the G.A.R. gather at the Scythe Tree in Waterloo, N.Y.

Department of New York, SUVCW

2008-2009 Officers

Department Commander	Peter J. Lindemann, PCC	126 Hudson Trail Howes Cave, NY 12092	(518) 296-8530 lindeman@midtel.net
Senior Vice Commander	Raymond B. Wheaton, PCC	12 Olli Road Newfield, NY 14867	(607) 564-7227 rbw8@wildblue.net
Junior Vice Commander	Jeffrey Albanese, PCC	19 Gregory Dr. Goshen, NY 10924	(845) 294-0924 jalb@frontiernet.net
Secretary / Treasurer	Michael S. Bennett, PDC	PO Box 1824 White Plains, NY 10602	(914) 949-4679 spangler@mindspring.com
Patriotic Instructor	Douglas E. Deuel, PCC	1728 Union Center Hwy Endicott, NY 13760	(607) 785-4403 deuel9@gmail.com
Chaplain	R. Stuart Smith, Jr., PCC	1224 Rolfe Street Palmyra, NY 14522	(315) 597-9763 rstujr@peoplepc.com
Council Member, Chairman	Earl E. Allen, PDC	PO Box 401 Bridgewater, NY 13313	(315) 822-5682 Eallen5@peoplepc.com
Council Member	Robert G. Dauchy, PDC	181 Sale Rd W. Winfield, NY 13491	(315) 822-6021 rdauchy@peoplepc.com
Council Member	Daryl V. Verstrete, Jr.	4051 Dean Rd. Marion, NY 14505	(315) 926-8061 daryl_7374@hotmail.com
Eagle Scout Coordinator	Douglas E. Deuel, PCC	1728 Union Center Hwy Endicott, NY 13760	(607) 785-4403 deuel9@gmail.com
Archivist	Michael S. Bennett, PDC	PO Box 1824 White Plains, NY 10602	(914) 949-4679 spangler@mindspring.com
Historian	Benedict R. Maryniak	5559 Broadway Lancaster, NY 14086	(716) 685-3545 benedict@buffnet.net
GAR Highway Officer	Jeffrey Albanese, PCC	19 Gregory Dr. Goshen, NY 10924	(845) 294-0924 jalb@frontiernet.net
Counselor	Danny L. Wheeler, PCinC	501 Willow Avenue Ithaca, NY 14850	(607) 272-7314 dwheel2@twcny.rr.com
Graves Registration Officer	Bruce N. Glaser, PCC	70 Van Stallen St. Rochester, NY 14621	(585) 342-7892 Indian658@email.com
Memorials Officer	Jerome L. Orton, PDC	213 Dixon Drive Syracuse, NY 13219	(315) 488-4076 orton50@aol.com
Webmaster	Robert L. Pugsley, PCC	1602 West Ave. Middlesex, NY 14507	(585) 554-3655 flycar@frontiernet.net
Signals Officer, Editor, THE VOLUNTEER	Dale Theetge, PDC	3046 Center Road Ovid, NY 14521	(607) 869-5432 dtheetge@flt.net
Color Bearer	Philip L. Kissel	422 Preston Ave. Staten Island, NY 10312	(718) 356-7897
Guide	George Weinmann, PCC	55 Jewel Street Brooklyn, NY 11222	(718) 383-3180 gjweinmann@aol.com
Guard	Richard J. Lewis	5781 Lewis Lane Alpine, NY 14805	(607) 594-4389 rjlusma72@yahoo.com
Musician	William Tojek, PCC	2925 South Park Avenue Lackawanna, NY 14218	(716) 827-6403 bugler44ny@msn.com
GAR Highway Adjutant	William A. Christen, Jr.	12308 Williston Road Alden, NY 14004	(716) 652-6702 Roundbaum12@rochester.rr.com
Veterans Home Visitation Off.	James Russell, PDC	19 McCarty Street Candor, NY 13743	(607) 659-3482
Property/Artifacts Com. Chair	Michael S. Bennett, PDC	PO Box 1824 White Plains, NY 10602	(914) 949-4679 spangler@mindspring.com
Legislative Committee Chair	Paul F. Ellis-Graham, PCC	16 Vanderbilt Dr. Highland Mills, NY 10930	(845) 928-8945 pellisgr@mw.k12.ny.us
Encampment Committee Rep.	Dale Theetge, PDC	3046 Center Road Ovid, NY 14521	(607) 869-5432 dtheetge@flt.net
Regional Association Reps	SVC Ray B. Wheaton, PCC JVC Jeffrey Albanese, PCC	12 Olli Road Newfield, NY 14867 19 Gregory Dr. Goshen, NY 10924	(607) 564-7227 rbw8@wildblue.net (845) 294-0924 jalb@frontiernet.net

126th NYSUVCW Department Encampment

June 5 - 7 2009

Binghamton Regency Hotel, Binghamton, N.Y. 607-722-7575 www.bingregency.com/index.html

Per night double \$87.00 + tx Rate good until May 15 mention Allied Orders campfire 7:30 Friday

Joint Memorial Service 8:30 - 9:00 am June 6, outdoor service Sunday 8:00 am local cemetery

ENCAMPMENT MEMORIAL BOOKLET

Ads for the Encampment Memorial Booklet

Full Pg. \$40.00

½ \$20.00

¼ \$10.00

1/8 \$5.00

Name only \$1.00

Send check payable to NYDptDUVCW to:

Ms. Dorothy Prentice

11077 Hoxie Rd

W. Edmeston, N.Y. 13485 *By May 15*

BANQUETT

Sat, June, 6

A delicious buffet with entertainment and presentation of Rippy Award

Cost \$32.00 per person. Special food needs let us know

Reservation Deadline June 1, 2009

Send check made to NYDptSUVCW to:

Dale Theetge

3046 Center Rd.

Ovid, N.Y. 14521

ENCAMPMENT LUNCHEON

Noon, Sat, June 6 Allied Orders

cost \$15.00 per person

send check made payable to NYDptDUVCW

by May 15, 2009 to:

Ms. Shirley Boris

7492 Sodus Center Rd.

Sodus, N.Y. 14551

126th SUVCWNY Encampment

Registration \$5.00

Name _____

Address _____

Camp _____ Office _____

Past DC _____ Past CnC _____ y/n

Mail to:

Michael Bennett, PDC

P.O. Box 1824

White Plains, N.Y. 10602

Sydney Camp 41 in Ithaca has a new Commander. He is Phillip Swaney. He and his wife Marilyn reside on a small horse farm in Interlaken N.Y. Phil comes to the Sons through the efforts of Sydney Camp members Dale Theetge, PDC and Rick Lewis, Sydney Sr.Vice and is one of the three musketeers.

Phil is in addition to Sydney Camp Commander a member of Co D, 7th N.Y. Cavalry, SVR. (Horses - Cavalry) who would have thought. Phil is a Living History Actor as is his wife. Phil portrays a Cavalry Trooper and his wife a member of the Sanitary Commission.

Many people do not know that until recently Phil was the most decorated veteran residing in New York State. An Iraq War veteran replaced him. Phil spent three tours in Viet Nam as a 5th Special Forces Medevac Medic aboard a "dust-off" helicopter. Earning bronze stars, a silver star and three purple hearts. Just recently the government has declassified an operation in Cambodia during Viet Nam and with that declassification Phil was awarded another Bronze Star and Citation. His country is proud of his service and so are we Sons.

For Our Jr. Members

Both the North and South needed males of fighting age to fill the ranks during a long war. The legal age of enlistment was eighteen, but many boys, excited by the idea of combat, enlisted as well.

Some young men got their parents permission. Others ran off, lied their age and joined up.

A few pre -teen joined their home-state regiments as musicians, mostly drummer boys. The bands played on the march and in camp. After the battles, they carried the stretchers of dead and wounded.

On drummer boy who became famous during the war was John Clem from Michigan. Reportedly, Clem was just ten years old when he was caught at the terrible battle of Shiloh. A Rebel artillery shell smashed Clem's drum and the newspapers made him famous as "Johnny Shiloh".

A year latter, in the chaos of retreat from Chickamauga, Clem carried a shortened rifle as well as his drum. A Confederate Colonel called for his surrender at one point. Clem shot and wounded the Colonel, taking him prisoner and becoming the "Drummer Boy of Chickamauga".

Clem was taken prisoner himself shortly after that incident and spent two months in prison. But the experience did not put him off fighting. He returned to his regiment for the Battle for Atlanta and was wounded twice.

John Clem went on to make the Army his career and retired as a Major General just before WWI.

