



3rd Quarter 2023

THE VOLUNTEER

A quarterly publication of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War,
Department of New York

*The 140th Encampment of the
Department of New York-May
5-7 in Callicoon.*



The Department of New York officers for the next term.



Danny Wheeler, PDC, PNC receives the inaugural Danny Wheeler Meritorious Service Award Medal from Department Commander French.



Ethel French receiving the GRO Award from Bro. Dennis Duffy.



Visitation from DUVCW Sister Lynne Dolan NP, and Sister Susan Berardi DP



Dr Mary Walker Award presented to Sister Eileen Sleckman DUVCW and Hope Parker ASUVCW.



(l to r) NY Dept Cmdr French, George Shadman, and NY Dept SVC O'Brien

Brother George Shadman, Jr., PDC, received his 50-year membership badge from NY Dept SVC Edward O'Brien at the May 6th NY Department Encampment. Brother Shadman was Secretary-Treasurer of Camp #146 for several years before he relocated to Virginia. Since then he has been a regular contributor to the newsletter and an active member of the Camp Council.



Brother Orton and Pugsley (not pictured) received awards for 20+ years of continuous service at department level elected or appointed.

From Susan Berardi, President of the New York Department of the DUVCW-

The Daughters had a productive Convention at the Encampment May 5-7 at Villa Roma, Callicoon NY. Tents 2, 36, 56, and 109 all sent delegates. Tent 36 won the award for most members in attendance.

We enjoyed the Campfire talks by Sons Jeffrey French, Jeffrey Albanese, and Dennis Duffy about their ancestors who fought in the Civil War.

The Memorial Service Saturday morning was very moving as we recognized 3 sisters in the Daughters, 3 sisters in the Auxiliary, and 9 Sons who passed on in 2022.

Business sessions Saturday were productive as we started planning for the 2025 Encampment in the NE region, elected officers for 2023-2024, and addressed a variety of other business issues before us.

We honored our National President Lynne Dolan who was in attendance both in her capacity as National President and as the Treasurer for the NY Dept.

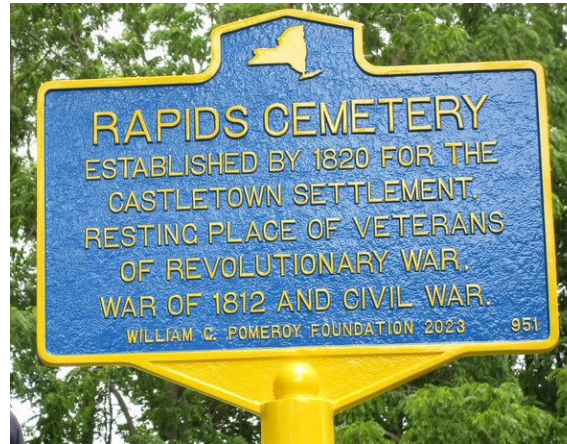
Marker Dedication in Rochester

By Anton Schwarzmuller, Lincoln Camp #6



The woman I'm standing with in the image folder I sent as a share folder is Deryn Pomeroy of the Pomeroy Foundation, daughter of the founder. I approached her asking if she could guess who I am, hinting that we have corresponded a number of times. She needed maybe 15-20 seconds, but said my name on the first try. If pressed to guess I'd say attendance was around 30 including channel 8 news. A speaker (from the 19th Ward Association I presume) did announce that a member of the local Sons was present. Others speakers were Deryn Pomeroy and a young fellow who is a local politician and veteran – I didn't catch his name. I spoke with the City Historian Christy Ridarsky, the driver behind

acquiring the marker, thanking her for her work especially since it saved me from applying for the marker. The news lined up several veterans and myself and threw out several questions that the others answered.



In F., C. & L.,

Anton

REGIONAL ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS JOIN FOR HEADSTONE DEDICATIONS IN BROOME COUNTY,

NY. Submitted by Bro. John Goodnough, SVC/Sec./GRO, Col. David Ireland Camp #137 of Binghamton, NY and Vicinity..



On Saturday, May 13, this camp shared in obsequies to dedicate new headstones at two sites in Center Lisle Cemetery, Broome Co., NY. We took part along with lead organization Mrs. Benjamin Harrison Tent #2, DUVCW; Binghamton Civil War Historical Society and Round Table; 137th NY Infantry Civil War Theme Living History Reenactor Group; Brothers from Silas Gore Camp #141, SUVCW (of Bradford Co., PA), local historians and researchers, the Broome County Sheriff's Department Color Guard, a choral group from Whitney Point High School, and several guests, to honor and remember the

Civil War services and sacrifices of Cpl. Justus Lewis (114th and 90th NY Infantry) and Simeon Oliver (89th NY Infantry), culminating with the unveiling of replacement grave site headstones.

Good weather prevailed as the assembly of approximately 50 progressed the program under the leadership of local Daughters President Ella Youngs Peryea. Processional segments, hymns and anthems were rendered via bagpipe, drum, recorder, bugle and choral arrangements during the proceedings at which new headstones, procured via Veterans Affairs channels, were dedicated. The program was unique for this region in that a total of 14 descendants of the Lewis and Oliver family lines were present. (One of them in the Lewis lines was our own Brother Merwin Fuller). Some of the veterans' relatives came from as far away as locations in New Jersey. We were also honored to have the presence of SUVCW NY Department PDC Dauchy. Ireland Camp Senior PCC Douglas Deuel, also serving as current Chaplain, read the moving lines from WHEN THE BOYS IN BLUE ARE GONE. Presentation of the flags, unveiling of the headstones, rendering of TAPS and a formal salute over the veterans' grave sites concluded the event. Field formations and sequence of presentations and salutes were under the leadership of Ireland Camp Cdr. Ben Gardiner, in tandem with the Honor

Guard Detail provided by the office of Broome Co. Sheriff Fred Akshar. Immediately following the exercises was a reception at the Village of Lisle's Christian Fellowship Church. Video clips and still images can be accessed via YouTube using key words "Civil War Veteran Grave Site Headstones Dedication at Center Lisle Cemetery, Broome Co., NY, Saturday, May 13, 2023." We also recognize superb efforts at capturing or rendering audio or video aspects of the program by professional videographer James Smith; photographers Bro. Will Platt and Merwin Fuller; Laura Gardiner; Also many thanks to drummer Cris Gansell, bagpiper Marty DeVault; bugler duo (primary and echo renditions of TAPS) Timothy & Patrick Gallagher (Bugles Across America).

***From Ella Youngs Peryea
in a letter to Susan Berardi***

Sister President Susan,
I have attached the link to WBNG "Around the Tiers" segment which aired this morning at 9:37 am.
I won't win any Oscars, but hope you enjoy it and we get the public to join us at the dedication tomorrow.
<https://www.wbng.com/2023/05/12/civil-war-union-soldiers-receive-tombstone-dedication/> (copy and paste to your search bar)
Feel free to share this.



Memorial Day Observances



***Department
Commander O'Brien reads to the public
and members at Rapids Cemetery on
Congress Ave. in Rochester.***



***Members of Lincoln Camp #6 and the
DUVCW at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in
Rochester***

Luncheon with Guests from Grant's Cottage... By Leo McGuire, PDC



The Lincoln Luncheon on Saturday June 17th at the Turf Tavern in Scotia held its an annual event where Camp #154, gives awards to members for their participation in meetings and events. Our guest speaker was the new director for Grant Cottage. (Beth Merrill)

After Grant's passing, in 1889, The National GAR Encampment approved \$600.00 (\$ 15,000, now) for the salary of the caretaker of Grant Cottage. He was a Civil War Veteran. In 1893, the National GAR developed a plan for the support and maintenance of Grant Cottage. It took the form of a small "head tax" on each GAR member. The Friends of the Ulysses S. Grant Cottage was formed in the fall of 1989 to operate and take care of the cottage.

Marker dedication –

A historical marker was dedicated outside the Niagara Falls train station, Underground Railroad Heritage Center Mon, May 22nd 2023 at 11:40 am.

The Niagara Frontier Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society joined City of Niagara Falls Mayor Robert Restaino, Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Executive Director Sara Capen, and Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center Director of Community Engagement Saladin Allah for a dedication ceremony Saturday, in observance of a new historical marker at the intersection of Depot Avenue West and Whirlpool Street.

Located outside of the Amtrak station and Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center, the sign reads, "On Dec. 16, 1864, local police officer D.H. Thomas arrested two Confederate spies nearby after their attempt to derail passenger train south of here."

It was erected by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation and the National Railway Historical Society Niagara Frontier Chapter. Project Manager Anton Schwarzmuller said, "Thank you all for coming here today to dedicate this historical marker in honor of a forgotten local policeman and his act of arresting a pair of Confederate spies in the later throes of the Civil War.

Who were these two spies? George S. Anderson, age 17, who testified against the other, Capt. John Yates Bell.” He explained, “Beall and others, led by Col. William T. Martin, conspired to rob a train between Buffalo and Dunkirk. Seventeen-year-old Confederate Anderson rode a train with the colonel and a Lt. Hadley to Dunkirk, the plan being to ‘capture’ a train on the way back to Buffalo, but this was not done. They walked five or six miles south of Buffalo, Beall joining them along the way. They tried to pull a rail out of place with a sledge – possessed by Beall – and a chisel, but failed. They fled to Port Colborne in Canada, stayed a day, and returned with a fifth man for another try. They procured a sleigh, went five miles south, but they missed the train. They stayed overnight at a hotel and tried again at 2 o’clock on Dec. 16, 1864, placing a rail across the tracks. This failed to derail the train.” SchwarzmueLLer said, “Trains of 1864 were very different from the trains of today. Passenger coaches were mostly of wood and heated by wood stoves. Derailing a passenger train could have horrific results, with coach-es smashing apart and catching fire from the stoves. These Confederate saboteurs had no qualms about causing death and injury to innocent civilians. In the language of today, we call them terrorists. It reflected the desperation of the Confederacy to convince the Union populace to end the war before winning it.

“Now Beall and Anderson were in the New York Central passenger depot on Depot Avenue between 9th and 10th Streets at 9 or 10 o’clock at night on Dec. 16, 1864, waiting for the 11 o’clock train to Canada. Officer David H. Thomas of the Village of Niagara City (aka: Suspension Bridge) and his partner, by the name of Saules, approached Beall and Anderson. Officer Thomas questioned Beall. Initially, Beall identified himself as John Beall, then claimed he was W.W. Baker, the name of one of his cohorts in the Chesapeake raids. Beall denied that; he said he was John Beall. Both Beall and Anderson were in civilian clothes, and Beall was in possession of a loaded Colt firearm. “Officer Thomas arrested them, accusing Beall of being an escaped prisoner from Point Lookout, Chesapeake Bay. This was a Union prison in Maryland at the mouth of the Potomac River. To this, Beall admitted, though it was false, later stating that he had gone to Baltimore and from there to escape to Canada. He added that he had vowed not to be taken and would have shot Officer Thomas had the officer not come to him so suddenly or unexpectedly.” SchwarzmueLLer added, “Policeman David H. Thomas, whose name appears on the marker – who arrested the two Confederates, preventing their escape to Canada, preventing them from committing further acts of terrorism – was at his life’s end a station master of the Erie

Railroad, residing near Division and Main streets here.”

His remains are buried in Oakwood Cemetery. “And so today, we resurrect the name of a local hero from the dustbin of history,” SchwarzmueLLer said. .

Willard Camp Helps Get Funding for Old and New Mt. Ida Cemeteries

By

Col. G. L. Willard Camp 154 – SUVCW

In an annual rite of Spring, the members of the Col. George L. Willard Camp (Camp), a dedicated core of volunteers, along with fraternity brothers from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), converge on New Mt. Ida Cemetery. Led by Alysia Hamilton and Cameron Smith, two Troy residents who live near the Cemetery, the group would perform some clean up and monument preservation on a weekend nearest to Earth Day. Winter wreaks havoc with the old trees that rain down limbs on the dirt roads, walkways, and monuments throughout the cemetery. Gathering up the branches into piles for removal by the City of Troy (City) was one objective. The other objectives were to make minor monument repairs and identify monuments in need of an expert’s skills, equipment, and materials. Over the years small grants were obtained from the City of

Troy, RPI fraternities, and the estate of Edward Dodge to facilitate those repairs by Joseph Ferrannini of Grave Stone Matters.

Camp preservation and maintenance activities began in New Mount Ida in the early 2000s when Willard Camp Brother John Hilton, who cared for his great grandfather's plot (David L. Hilton, Company H, 104th Regiment, New York State Volunteers), met Chuck Greenfield, a Marine Veteran who was placing flat granite markers at Civil War Veterans' plots in New Mount Ida. Brother Hilton, Camp Commander Bill Rave (1996-1998 and 2002-2003 [1]), and a dozen or so Brothers supported and assisted Chuck's project that eventually placed over 160 flat markers. Chuck Greenfield would become Camp Commander from 2003-2004. A chance encounter occurred several years later when Alysia and Cameron were clearing brush in the New Mount Ida Cemetery. Brother Hilton enthusiastically supported and aided in these efforts with his time and by constructing a ten-foot steel tripod and chain fall that could be used to right downed monuments. Later in 2011, Brother Hilton attended a monument preservation workshop led by Joseph Ferrannini in Grafton [2] and referred Alysia to him for preserving the multiple monuments that had been uncovered during the brush removal efforts.

An opportunity for more substantial funding arose in 2022 and Cameron started

to explore options for applying for the funds to support both Old and New Mt. Ida Cemeteries. The City of Troy announced the availability of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in the Spring with proposals due in May. Cameron, with crucial support from Willard Camp and Joseph Ferrannini, defined a project, "Preserving The Mount Ida Cemeteries", for the two Cemeteries that aligned with the City's emphasis on improving public greenspaces that are in need of deferred maintenance and were essential resources during the pandemic. In early November the team was excited to learn that the proposal was approved for funding by the City Council after being recommended by the City's ARPA Steering Committee.

The project objectives focus on preserving the Old and New Mount Ida cemeteries through a one-time investment in a tree survey and maintenance program along with monument repair and preservation. Trees would be trimmed to remove dead, dying and crowded limbs which will allow new healthy growth. Under the trees marble and granite monuments, many of Civil War Veterans and significant figures from Troy's past, will be cleaned and repaired. Ultimately the project will help ensure the greenspace remains safe for visitors and honors those interred there. The effort will bring the Cemeteries closer to their original conditions. In the successful application we

requested \$2,000 for the tree survey, \$20,800 for trimming tasks, and \$48,000 for monument restoration.

Following City Council approval in November, the project was presented to Willard Camp members during the regular December meeting. Shortly thereafter a contract was received from the City and it went through multiple rounds of review between December 2022 and January 2023. While Cameron and the Camp worked on completing the contract review it was time to get liability insurance in place and begin contacting our vendors for both their contracts and insurance certificates. The National Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) was helpful in quickly issuing an insurance certificate and that helped assure that the contract could be signed and all efforts would continue to move forward. In February 2023, Joseph Ferrannini of Grave Stone Matters submitted his insurance information so that the monument work could move forward quickly in May. In the meantime, a voucher system was developed to keep track of invoices and payments and a new bank account was being prepared for receiving and disbursing funds. This occurred just before we received our first vendor contract from PlanIT Geo paving the way for the tree survey work for New Mt. Ida Cemetery that was completed at the end of April.

We are all excited about the progress of the proposal, contracts, insurance issues and the

pace of the work. Community interest and response to the project has been excellent. Thanks are due to: The City of Troy; Rensselaer County Legislature; Project Manager Cameron Smith; Camp Program Manager David Dziewulski PCC, Thomas Maggs CC, Leo McGuire PCC and the members of Willard Camp; the National SUVCW; Christopher Philippo for his dedication to monument preservation work and deep knowledge of local history.

[1]<https://www.troyrecord.com/2011/04/20/community-calendar-for-april-20-2011/>

[2] <https://glwillard154.org/about-the-camp/officers/past-commanders-of-154>



Figure 1. Image at the entrance of Old Mt. Ida Cemetery just as work commenced on May 22



Figure 2. Looking back to the same area on May 30. About 18 monuments were uncovered and/or restored.



Figure 3. Volunteers working on uncovered monuments.

Sam Lund in the Classroom

Submitted by PDC French



Sam is a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Walter H French Camp #17.

After a hiatus of nearly 60 years, Sam is back teaching in a structured classroom (previously US Army). Copenhagen Central, in his adopted hometown, invited Sam Lundy to spend a few days discussing the social aspects of the American Civil War and how it related to our community, to high school juniors.

Sam was overwhelmed by the politeness and attention of these students. Great kids and great class instructor, Ms. Atkinson.

America has a great future!

**General Ulysses S. Grant
201st Birthday Commemoration
Sunday, April 30, 2023**



Oliver Tilden Camp #26, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was the last ceremony of the week for the National Park Service to Commemorate 201st Anniversary of the birth of President and General Ulysses S. Grant. The ceremony was held at the General Grant National Memorial on West 122nd St. and Riverside Drive in Manhattan, NY on Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 11:00 AM.

I wish to thank the following people and organizations for their participation: Jeffrey French, (National Representative), PDC, New York Department Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War; Ramona Greenwalt, Past National President, National Auxiliary to the SUVCW; Diane Theetge, President,

New York Department Auxiliary to the SUVCW; Lynne Dolan, National President, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865; Susan Berardi, Chaplain Tent 56 and NY Dept. President DUVCW 1861-1865; Ed Happle, Grant Monument Association Vice President; Janice Lauletta-Weinmann, President of The Greenpoint Monitor Museum & Auxiliary member SUVCW, Thomas Principe, BG Ret. NYARNG, Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Association; Tilden Camp members Bros. John Gregor, JVC, Steven Lally, Sergeant-at-Arms, Mark Goret, Charles Lirio, Treasurer, Thomas Richards, S. Patrick Deviney and William Evan Rofheart. Additional thanks to Moses Baldwin Camp #544 SUVCW and Kady Brownell Tent #36, DUVCW.

Keynote speaker was Patrick Falci, Past President of The Civil War Round Table of New York. Special thanks Bro. Eugene (Violin) & Louise Bender (Singer) and SVC Arthur P. Kirmss (Singer, guitar & Civil War flute) for providing the music for the event. In addition, special thanks to 1st Lt. John Portanova, Co. I 83rd NYV (9th NYSM) SVR for leading the Color Guard and Major McKinley Camp #9, New Hampshire & Past Department Commander Michael C. Shklar, Department of New Hampshire SUVCW Auxiliary Color Guards. We thank them all for their participation in the event.

Special thanks to Chaplain John Shaud, PCC and Dennis Duffy Sect. Moses Baldwin Camp #544 and to our Keynote Speaker Patrick Falci for his great presentation on Grant's horses. Thanks Pat!

Jeffrey French, (National Representative), PDC, New York Department Commander with the help from Moses Baldwin Camp Chaplain John Shaud, PCC initiated the following new members from Oliver Tilden Camp: S. Patrick Deviney and William Evan Rofheart. Congratulations to them and to Brother William Webb for being the recipient of the Bob Wilder Lord "*Patriot of the Year*" award.

The program was dedicated in memory of Charles J. Spiegel, Jr., Esq. who was a Tilden Camp member since June 1955.

Oliver Tilden Camp SVC Arthur P. Kirmss, JVC John Gregor and Commander George J. Weinmann, PDC co-hosted of the event. The 2023 General Grant Memorial Committee thanks the National Park Service (Manhattan Sites) and everyone for making the event once again very successful!

Oliver Tilden Camp looks forward to seeing you next year for the 202nd Birthday Commemoration of President and General Ulysses S. Grant!

Grant Program attached!

Yours in,

Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

George J. Weinmann, PCC, Commander
Past New York Department Commander
Oliver Tilden Camp #26, SUVCW
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Passings –



R. Stuart “Stu” Smith Jr.,

Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at the age of 94.

Visitation was held Friday, May 5 at the Robert L. Yost Funeral Home, Inc., 123 W. Main St., Palmyra. Graveside prayers with military honors were offered at 10am on Saturday, May 6 in Palmyra Village Cemetery.

Please consider donations in memory of Stu to Honor Flight Rochester, Inc., PO Box 23581, Rochester, NY 14692.

Stu was born on April 2, 1929 in Clifton Springs, NY, the son of Roy S. Sr. and Mildred Black Smith. He was a 1947 graduate of Palmyra-Macedon High School and attended Clarkson University before joining the army in 1952. After serving in Korea and being honorably discharged Stu completed his engineering degree at Clarkson.

The funeral home proudly flew the United States Army flag in honor of Stu’s service to our country.

Stu spent his engineering career with Kordite and later Mobil Chemical in Macedon. He was very proud to be a 70 year member of F&A Masonic Lodge and a member of the James R. Hickey American Legion Post.

Stu was a civil war buff and had been an active member of the 1st NY Dragoons. As a veteran of the army and Korean War, Stu was selected to attend Honor Flight which became very meaningful to him.

Throughout his life Stu was known for his quick wit and sense of humor and in his later years became known as the “Mayor of Parkwood Heights.”

Predeceased by his parents; former wife Katharine Smith and siblings Eugene Smith, Peggy Contant and Elaine Cook, Stu is survived by his daughters Tracey (Larry) Hurley and Amy (Mike) Buckert; son Paul (Tara) Smith; grandchildren Kristina (Jared) Hyatt, Brandon (Colleen) Hurley, Katie (Brandon) Hurley, Tanner (Whitney) Fox, Brodie Buckert, Hayden Smith, Quinn Smith and Paige (Kevin) Brimacombe; great-grandchildren Kaysen Craig, Caleb Eder, Cohen Eder, Ellie Hurley, Teagan Hurley, Remi Fox and Kinsley Kleiser and many cousins, nieces, nephews and extended family members.

Stu was New York Department Chaplain for many years.

Calendar

July 7-9, Battle Event, Delhi, NY (not confirmed)

July 15 - Headstone Dedications at Cedar Grove Cemetery, Flushing, NY are planned for July 15. Bros. Blake McCauley and Dennis Duffy visited the cemetery on February 15 and with amazing help from Joe Smith, Superintendent and Deirdre Poulos of the office staff, discovered three more burials which need headstones. This of course will require more research, but it now appears we will be dedicating six stones rather than the three we were planning on. One of the veterans is Lewis Leimbach of the 20th NY Militia.

July 21-23, Battle Event, Tubbs Park, Lima

August 3-6, 2023, 142nd National Encampment, Nashua, New Hampshire
Courtyard by Marriott 2200 Southwood Dr.,
Nashua, NH. 03063

August 19 – Living History - Living History Event Saturday, August 19, 2023,

from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. One-day event camp over if you choose.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War have been invited to the Wayne County Fair at W Jackson St. Palmyra, NY on Saturday, August 19, 2023, between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM for a Living History event in Celebrating Wayne County Bicentennial and the Civil War with the 111 NYVI. Need, Union Civil War reenactors are invited to portray the life of a soldier with the 111 NYVI who were mustered in at Wayne County.

A cash bounty will be paid for fuel costs with receipt of purchase if needed. Lunch is provided by an on-site vendor. \$20.00 Cash bounty to those who remain the six hours. For more information, contact Ed O'Brien at: dgcaywood146@gmail.com or IM me.

This is not a battle, Living history only depicts the 111th unit from Wayne County.

September 22-24, Battle Event, Angelica, NY



Department of New York

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



Dep't COMMANDER- Jeffrey French, PDC
SR. VICE COMMANDER- Ed O'Brien, CC
JR. VICE COMMANDER- William Stump
SECRETARY- Robert L. Pugsley PDC
TREASURER- Jeffrey Albanese PDC
COUNSELOR- Danny Wheeler, PC-in-C
COUNCIL-Paul Ellis-Graham, Brian Castler
PDC, Ray Wheaton PDC
ARCHIVISTS, Brian Castler PDC, Leo McGuire
PDC
PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR- Axel Ravera

3rd Quarter 2023

THEVOLUNTEER

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

141st NY Department Encampment - May 3rd- 5th – 7th, 2024

American Legion Post # 256

454 North Main St. Canandaigua, NY



HISTORIAN- Jerome L. Orton PDC

CHAPLAIN- Rev. Dr. Mark D. Isaacs
GAR HIGHWAY OFC.- Matthew J. Hereford PCC
EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR Brian Castler
GRAVES REGISTRATION- Dennis Duffy
WEBMASTER- Ray W. LeMay PDC
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