



4th Quarter 2022

THE VOLUNTEER

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

(From NY Dep't Commander French)

The Department's mid-year Meeting will be via ZOOM on Sunday, October 9th at 6:00pm. Registration is electronically via electronic form. Further details are on the Department web site.

The 140th Department of New York Encampment will be on 5-7 May 2023 located at Villa Roma in Callicoon, NY. Here are the details as the resort operates differently from hotels. Rooms are double occupancy which means a Brother or Sister that is not married or have a significant other will have to share a room with a fellow Brother with another Brother and the same with the Sisters.

Room rate is a package deal. For staying two nights it will cost \$386 per person.

This includes dinner Friday evening, breakfast Saturday and Sunday mornings and the banquet.

Staying one night will be \$193 per person and includes evening meal and breakfast. For example, stay Friday night you get dinner Friday evening and breakfast Saturday morning. Stay Saturday night it includes the banquet and breakfast Sunday morning.

Here is the link to Villa Roma to check out: [Villa Roma Resort and Conference Center - Guest Reservations](#)

The Department Encampment Committee is now working on 2024 Department Encampment in Rochester at Hyatt Regency where we will probably host the National Encampment in 2026. This will allow us to

prep the battlefield when we Host National in 2026 by knowing the layout at the hotel and what's available in the surrounding area.

Will keep you posted on the developments as they occur.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty

Jeffrey I. French, PDC (CH), PCC
NY Department Commander.

(Editor's note, below is a contribution from Susan Berardi, President of the NYDUVCW, moving toward making this publication a forum inclusive of the Sons and all the Allied Orders in New York State.)

News from DUVCW Lodema Strickland Tent #56 -

Susan Berardi, President of Tent#56 DUVCW, was elected NY Department President at the May Allied Orders Encampment in Binghamton NY.

In June a Tea was held by Tent #56 to honor outgoing NY Department President Nicolle Beatty.

Thank you to Sons who attended Bob Pugsley, PDC, Judson Hicks Camp #111 and Lincoln Camp 6, Steve Williams, Jr. Vice of Abraham Lincoln Camp #6 and Jerry Orton of Willard Camp. Also in attendance were Carin Cleveland, PNP DUVCW, Hope Parker ASUVCW and Erika

Lynne Gallaudet Dolan of NY Kady Brownell Tent #36 was elected National President of the DUVCW at their National Convention in Gettysburg in August. In Fidelity, Charity, and Loyalty, Sister Susan Berardi, NY DP & Tent #56 President 8th

66th Annual REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE NOVEMBER 19, 2022

Sponsored by the Sons of Veterans Reserve, the Military Department of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Parade briefing 12:00 noon in front of the Unity Park marker on Lefever Street. All units are required to send a unit representative. Units form up at Noon on Lefever Street between Baltimore Street and E. Confederate Avenue.

Parade will step off at 1:00 PM.

For further information please contact:

Major David Hann,

Provost Marshal SVR

Cell: 609-816-2012

E-mail: majorsvrprovost@gmail.com

Main site -

<https://sites.google.com/site/remembrancedayparade>



General Ulysses S. Grant 200th Birthday Commemoration Sunday, April 24, 2022

Oliver Tilden Camp #26, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was the opening ceremony for the National Park Service to commemorate 200th 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 24, 2022 at 11:00 AM.

We wish to thank the following for their participation: Mike Paquette, Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War; Leo Maguire, Past NY Dept. Commander, SUVCW; Rosemary Martin, National Patriotic Instructor, Auxiliary SUVCW; Norma Fiedler, National President, DUVCW; Caren Cleveland, SVP, New York Department DUVCW; Janice Lauletta-Weinmann, President of the Greenpoint Monitor

Museum & Aux. member SUVCW, Thomas Principe, BG Ret. NYARNG, Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Association; Patrick Falci, Past Presidents of The Civil War Round Table of New York; Tilden Camp members Bros. Steven Lally, Sergeant-at-Arms, Marc Hermann, Chaplain, Mark Goret, and Bill Webb, Jonathan R. Doucette, William M. Hemminger, Kyle E. Turrie, Alex Pappas; Col. George L. Willard Camp #154, Moses Baldwin Camp #544, and Kady Brownell Tent #36, DUVCW, and Department of Massachusetts, SUVCW.

Keynote speaker was Frank Scaturro, President of the Grant Monument Association. Special thanks to Bro. Eugene (Violin) & Louse 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 1st Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve. Major Kevin Tucker, Commander and Department of Massachusetts, Major McKinley Camp #9, New Hampshire & Department Commander Michael C. Shklar, Department of New Hampshire SUVCW Auxiliary Color Guards. We thank them all for their participation in the event.

C-in-C Mike Paquette, with the help from Tilden Camp Chaplain Marc Herman, initiated the following new members from

Oliver Tilden Camp, Jonathan R. Doucette, William M. Hemminger, Kyle E. Turrie and from New Hampshire Department, Ruben Ramirez and junior member Corbin Ramirez. Congratulations to them and to Commander George and Janice Weinmann for being recipients of the Bob Wilder Lord "*Patriot of the Year*" award.

The program was dedicated in memory of Donald T. Steinmaker, Richard Henry Wolfram, Paul Lorentzen and Brother Bob Costello, who portrayed President Abraham Lincoln. Bro. John Portanova, PCC made a special tribute to Bob Costello.

Oliver Tilden Camp SVC Arthur P. Kirmss, JVC John Gregor and Commander George J. Weinmann, PDC co-hosted of the event. The 2022 General Grant Memorial Committee thanks the National Park Service (Manhattan Sites) and to everyone for making the event once again very successful!

Oliver Tilden Camp looks forward to seeing you next year for the 201st Birthday Celebration of General Ulysses S. Grant! Grant Program attached!

Yours in,
Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,
George J. Weinmann, PDC, Commander
Oliver Tilden Camp #26, SUVCW
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

(Reprinted from *The Telegraph, Lincoln Camp #6*)



Badge of our Order

Above is a picture of the Badge of our Order, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. When initiated, we learn what it means. But sometimes those words can be forgotten if not repeated often enough.

Following are those words regarding our Badge as taken from the SUVCW Ritual for the initiation of new members:

“I now show you the Badge of our Order. The inscription, ‘Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War,’ reminds us of our high estate and our duty to our Country. We are the

Sons of Union Veterans. May we prove ourselves worthy of this title.

The ribbon is a union of red, white, and blue, the colors of our Country's Flag.

The red signifies the unstained streams of blood, shed that the blessings of a free government might be our heritage, and that our own blood is pledged to preserve the freedoms and responsibilities we so gladly received.

The blue tells us of that true faith and allegiance which our forefathers held to their Country and to each other, and charges us to be mindful of their example.

The white represents peace, which with honor, may our Country always enjoy.

The motto, 'Preserved by the grace of God,' reminds us that without the overruling hand of an all-wise Providence the sacrifices of our forefathers could have afforded nothing, and that God's favor alone can secure the preservation of our liberties. Like the eagle, may we be quick to discover our Country's needs, strong in its defense and swift to carry out the objectives of our Order.

May you wear your badge long and proudly, and may it always be a guiding star to you, in the discharge of your duties in private life and as a Son of a Union Veteran of the Civil War."

New SVR Unit

As stated in the 3rd Quarter edition of *The Volunteer* a new SVR unit, the 126thNY Company A, was formed in June with Brother Ed O'Brien elected as Commander and now commissioned as a 1st Lieutenant. The necessary paperwork was turned in to SVR 2nd Military District Command at the National Encampment.

The 126thNY Company A will initially be mainly serving Central and Western NY, but all NY Department Sons are welcome to join. This would extend the unit's ability to serve state-wide. We will be performing ceremonial duties at memorials, graveside, parades, etc. Contact Ed O'Brien if interested.

We expect to begin drill/training soon in order to be ready for the Spring memorial and grave dedication season. We have not yet selected a training site, which will, of course be affected by the situation with the NYS firearms law. Drill will be low stress, low impact, with modern footwear optional. If you have access to Hardee's Manual of Arms and feel like some "light" reading, please look over the first sections on individual soldier musket drill.

Yours, in F, C, & L,

Darin Everdyke, 1st Sgt, 126thNY Co A,
SVR

(From Leo McGuire, PDC)



Many thanks From the Col. George L. Willard, Camp # 154, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Department of New York, to Trustco Bank of Glenville for donating the flagpole, flag and light. This was placed at the GAR plot at Albany Rural Cemetery.

"Attached is the photo of the new flagpole installed in the Albany Rural Cemetery GAR Plot on August 17, 2022, gifted by the Col. George L. Willard Camp #154,

SUVCW. The Willard Camp is commended for its dedication and focus on honoring and memorializing the nation's Civil War soldiers & sailors. I send my personal Thank You to the Willard Camp and look forward to working with you in the future."

With Best Regards,
Mark T. Bodnar
President, Albany Cemetery Assn.

Brother Leo further states – “We were notified by the cemetery historian about the plot. It was rediscovered - we really didn't know it existed until a few years ago. There are about 37 stones. PDC Castler has done the research on each individual and I took photos of each stone. We just got a MOU from the cemetery about the plot. Several members have trimmed the stones as the grass was very high at times.”



(From Brother Dennis Duffy)



Brothers and Friends:

The headstone dedication ceremony for Edward Van Velsor was a great success. Past Camp Commander Scott McKendrick was our MC. Brother Bruce Weidenburner sang an amazing rendition of the National Anthem, Bro Steve Zawislak played Taps, the 14th Brooklyn fired the volleys, ten of Edward Van Velsor's descendants attended. Bro. Bill Mason, Past Commander, Oliver Tilden Camp led us in reciting John Greenleaf Whittier's famous patriotic poem *Barbara Fritchie*, etc.

The link below will take you to an excellent 37 minute video of the ceremony by Sister Gerry Albrecht of the Kady Brownell Tent #36, DUVCW.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Qkd5oEmz3hGyr4zw9>

Note on your calendars that we will be doing this again on October 15 for the six veterans for whom we placed stones in Greenfield Cemetery's GAR plot earlier this year.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Bro. Dennis

Dennis J. Duffy, Secretary, Graves Registration Officer (GRO) and Editor, *Moses on The Move*, Moses A. Baldwin Camp #544; GRO and Chair, Legislation Committee, Department of NY, Member, National Committee on Graves Registration, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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125th ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM AT VETERANS HOME, OXFORD, NY.



New York Department's Col. David Ireland Camp #137 was honored to take part in formalities held at the NYS Veterans Home, Oxford, NY on Wednesday, Sept. 14th, commemorating 125 years since the facility opened in 1897 to serve the needs of the Womens' Relief Corps (W.R.C.). Soon thereafter the facility was accepting honorably discharged men who had served in the Civil War's Union forces, along with women who had been nurses and other support staff during the conflict 1861-65. Later changes included spouses of the facility's residents.

Early movements to establish such a regional facility began in the 1880s, and support was virtually from inception by the New York Department of the G.A.R. Periodic reports appearing in annual proceedings of the Department indicate strong support of the effort, during which by

the early 90s had realized over \$100,000 in funds to do surveys, engage an architect, procure suitable land and obtain such basic appointments as an adequate supply of water. About 60 acres were initially procured on the easterly side of the Chenango River overlooking the community of Oxford in Chenango County, NY. Available additional land provided acreage where vegetables could be grown and cattle grazed to supply the home with basic food items.

By 1903 the facility had its own G.A.R. Post (No. 40) and regular on-site meetings of veterans were being held. Those men became the core group for coordinating patriotic exercises on special occasions such as Decoration Day (later Memorial Day), the 4th of July, and a veterans recognition day. By 1920 the roster of active G.A.R. men in the post had dwindled to less than 10; it was closed down within the next two years.

Over the years the campus expanded to include a well-equipped hospital and an increase in the number of activity suites and resident rooms. Along the way, the W.R.C. found it becoming difficult to maintain all services, and the facility was conveyed to the State of New York.



Original old buildings became obsolete. Structural problems, issues with deteriorating heating and ventilating systems, failure to meet building safety codes, and the presence of asbestos added to shortcomings. The most recent changes came in the early 2000s; today's facility includes several "state-of-the-art" features. The current administration made plans to commemorate the 125th anniversary milestone of the campus with an appropriate day of appreciation, honoring and remembering the efforts of visionaries, pioneer builders and maintainers. Today's staff continues to provide the utmost in services on behalf of the residents and the visiting public. Due to vulnerability of the population, protocols still call for COVID testing of all visitors. Wearing of masks and social distancing are still the norm at the home.

Col. David Ireland Camp #137 recently worked with the campus administration and the regional Living History Reenactment

community to provide some of the formalities. Local veterans' organizations such as the American Legion, a unit of the NYSNG Engineer Battalion, municipal and campus Historians, came together. Many artifacts, including two Civil War era 3-inch ordnance rifles, were on display. The local fire department provided an extension ladder truck supporting a large format National Flag. Camp #137 Commander Ben Gardiner gave a recital of WHEN THE BOYS IN BLUE ARE GONE. The undersigned provided some historical reflections on Civil War era military units that served from the region, including the newly formed 114th NY Infantry when it left nearby Norwich, NY, taking the first leg of their journey south via the Chenango Canal, through Oxford and down to the rail junction at Binghamton aboard a procession of canal boats in the summer of 1862.

Borne in the program's marching columns was our Camp #137 flag. Martial airs were played, and all major U.S. military branches (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard) were represented. Rendering of TAPS was by one of the Allied Orders members. A memorable day for all who took part.

Respectfully submitted, in F, C & L,

John Goodnough, Secretary
Col. David Ireland Camp #137

Passings –

Norman H. Seitz

(Former member of Abraham Lincoln Camp # 6 and brother of Sister Pauline Novic, Lodema Strickland Tent, DUVCW)

Ontario, formerly of Webster - Passed away on May 16, 2022. Survived by his wife, Elaine; daughters, Laurie O'Mailey, Karen (Steven) Smith, Debra (Keith) Vent; grandchildren, Joshua, Megan, Alec, Maclean, Jason, Kyle, Jakob; sister, Pauline Novick. Predeceased by his granddaughter, Melissa.

Norm enjoyed family times, hunting, fishing, spending time outdoors, and watching his grandchildren play sports.

Norm's Funeral Service was held 7:00 PM Friday, May 20, at United Church of Christ, 570 Klem Rd., Webster. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Friends of Webster Trails, 1350 Chiyoda Dr., Webster, NY 14580 or to a charity of your choice. Willard H. Scott Funeral Home.

Calendar –

October 9, 2022, 6:00pm. New York Department Mid-year Meeting via ZOOM>

October 15, 2022 – Grave Dedications, Greenfield Cemetery GAR Plot, 650 Nassau Rd, Uniondale, NY 11553

October 16, 2022 – US Grant's Bicentennial Birthday Gala silent auction and cocktail hour. Saratoga Spa State Park, Gideon Putnam Resort and Spa, 5:00pm RSVP by 10/5

November 19, 2022 - Remembrance Day Parade & Original Civil War Ball Gettysburg PA. 1:00pm

December 17, 2022- Wreaths Across America Day.

May 5-7, 2023 – 140th NY Department Encampment, Villa Roma, Callicoon, 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, Daryl Verstrete
PDC, Ray Wheaton PDC
ARCHIVIST- Ray Lemay, PDC
PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR- William Stump
HISTORIAN- Jerome L. Orton PDC

4th Quarter 2022

THEVOLUNTEER

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

140th Encampment - Department of New York- 5-7 May
2023 located at Villa Roma in Callicoon, NY



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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