



Spring 2021

THE VOLUNTEER

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

From Darin Everdyke, NY Department Commander

Greetings, Brothers:

The 138th Encampment of the New York Department of the Sons of Union Veterans will be held virtually, via ZOOM, on Saturday, May 15th, beginning at 9:00am.

The registration deadline has now been set for Wednesday, May 5th. That will give Brothers Albanese and Pugsley time to set the invite list and complete other necessary paperwork.

There will also be a pre-meeting for elected and appointed Department officers and Camp Commanders on Wednesday, April 21st at 7:00pm. You do not need to be a "Delegate" for this meeting as it's purely informational and a chance to make suggestions for the agenda, ask for help on

reports or items necessary for the encampment, nominate for awards, &c.

Also, make sure all of your annual and periodic Camp reports and forms are in and up to date. As we've seen in the past, these are critical all the way up to the National level and YOUR CAMP MAY BE SUSPENDED if they are not completed.

You should by now have received the annual raffle ticket package. Please be sure to fill them out and return them as soon as you can. This is our only major fund raiser and our only income except for a small fraction of the dues and occasional donations.

We are starting our second year with the COVID virus among us. Many of us have gotten the vaccine and most of the rest of us have come to terms with how to protect ourselves while carrying on some level of

activity. We've learned that we can be ACTIVE and SAFE at the same time.

As we're coming into better weather, it's time your Camps to be getting ready for what events might actually happen this year. Several Camps have already participated in activities for St. Patrick's Day, Lincoln's Birthday and are planning on holding Memorial Day observances of some form.

Besides carefully joining in with organized, larger group activities, there are other things we can be doing. As we've seen in previous editions of The Volunteer, and will again in this one, we can place GAR markers, wreaths, informational plaques, clean and restore graves, hold small ceremonies and observances, conduct historical research projects and so on...

In F, C & L,
Darin Everdyke

From The Guidon – Willard Camp

Wreaths Across America 2020



Near the shortest day of the year the sun, at 10:00 a.m., was low in the sky on December 27th 2020.

At 10:00 a.m. it was cold but clear at Albany Rural Cemetery as the Brothers of the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War gathered on December 27, 2020. The group's mission was to place wreaths on the graves of the soldier's plot. This was part of a larger national effort called "Wreaths Across America." This plot is considered part of the Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery. The undertaking was a week late because of a 30-inch snow storm the week before that caused postponement of the event.



The Brothers stand cold and backlit in the low December sun.

Our Brothers walked about, rubbing their hands for warmth, and chatted softly as they prepared for the event.



Camp Commander Brian Castler being interviewed, by Channel 10, before the wreath distribution.

The work began with a short ceremony conducted by Brother Brian Castler, CC at the plot's monument, all done under the watchful eye of local media. Albany's Channel 10 was on hand to report the undertaking.



Boxes of wreaths awaiting unpacking and distribution by the Camp Brothers.

The Brothers then distributed 149 wreaths, taking a moment to speak the name of each interred veteran and saluting them.



The Willard Camp's "Masked Band of Brothers" stand at the GAR plot in Albany Rural Cemetery. The development of this plot is the newest project to be undertaken by the Camp.

The group then moved on, first to place a single wreath at the GAR plot in Albany Rural Cemetery, before crossing the Hudson River to Troy, NY.



Brothers gather around General Thomas' grave to place a wreath and discuss the Thomas project.

At Oakwood Cemetery in Troy wreaths were placed at three sites starting with the grave of Major General Henry G. Thomas. Our troupe then MOVED to the Soldier and Sailor's plot and finally to the grave of the Camp's Namesake, Col. George L. Willard. The wreaths were paid for by both private donations and corporate contributions from companies such as the Pilot Company and Jersey Mike's Subs.

Dear Brother Camp Commanders, Camp Secretaries,

The Department of New York SUVCW will be conducting Facebook advertisements targeted to the local areas around your respective camps. The ad will include a photo and we would like it to be something from your area, if possible, showing your membership in action. The goal of this is to increase membership in your respective camps.

If you have any photos that show your membership doing something in the community (ceremonies, events, memorial services, parades, etc.) that the Department can use please forward them to me.

Your cooperation and assistance would be most welcome, the advertisement campaign will roll out on March 6th. If I haven't received local photos, I will choose something from elsewhere that represents our organization well.

I thank you in advance for your time and assistance. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me.

Yours in F, C, & L,
Raymond LeMay III, PDC
Dept. Webmaster, Dept. of New York
SUVCW

<http://www.nysuvcw.org>
<http://facebook.com/nysuvcw>

(From Camp Commander Ed O'Brien)

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln Camp # 6, Rochester, NY, are supporting the Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery, in Rochester, NY. with a Fundraiser for the "Defenders of the Flag" memorial monument located at the Union Soldiers and Sailors section in the Cemetery. The Memorial Monument was sculptured by Sally James Farnham, a renowned sculptress, whose studio was in New York City.

The last time restoration work was done on the Monument was five years ago, and the normal deterioration is beginning to show. The restoration can only be done by certain qualified companies and there is one located in Canandaigua, NY.

The cost is high – close to \$4000.00 – However, considering what needs to be done, this is understandable. Would you please consider making a contribution to this effort?

Checks can be mailed to PO Box 69 Honeoye Falls, NY 14472
Make your check payable to A. Lincoln Camp, SUVCW
The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is a 501 (c) 3

Thank You for Your Support

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty.
Ed/CC6



"Defenders of the Flag", Mt. Hope Cemetery, Rochester, NY.

The passage of James K. Lightner.

James K. Lightner was a WW2 veteran and a professional photographer. He passed away on February 7, 2021 at the age of 93.

As a child, in 1938, he attended the 75th Anniversary and final reunion of veterans of the Battle of Gettysburg where he took 2 pictures.

For a picture of Mr. Lightner his full obituary and the images he took, follow this link to The Baltimore Sun –

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/obituaries/bs-md-ob-james-lightner-20210224-uxhb7tdga5drpm7sczv3cysjqe-story.html>



(Public domain image of the 75th Gettysburg Reunion)

(Correspondence between Brother Dunkelmann and Dep't GRO Duffy. Reprinted with permission)

Dear Brother Dennis,

I've just had the pleasure of opening your amended file of the Vital Statistics of the 154th New York alongside mine and making the many additions in the former to the latter. It's just great to have all these additional entries added to the dates and places of birth, dates and places of death, and burial sites of members of the Hardtack Regiment. Believe me, I know how much work and dedication you devoted to this task, and I'm very, very grateful.

I'm also glad to learn that my list has added more than 400 burial sites to the SUVCW database. As you indicated, all told we now know the burial places of about 80% of the 154th New York. But that still leaves us with about 200 more to discover!

My next project will be to go to the Find A Grave pages for the seven men you provided the numbers for.

Issues on your list regarding three fatalities jumped out at me. After the 154th New York was badly bloodied and shattered in its vain stand against Stonewall Jackson's surprise attack on the 11th Corps at Chancellorsville on May 2, 1863, a group

got separated from the regiment and fought with other troops on May 3. Among them was Alva C. Merrill, who was killed by the side of his company comrade Marcellus W. Darling—the day after Alva's father, Barzilla, was killed. (I told the Merrills' story in my book *War's Relentless Hand: Twelve Tales of Civil War Soldiers*.) Augustus A. Shippy was killed on May 8, 1864 at the Battle of Dug Gap on Rocky Face Ridge, Georgia, not Mill Creek. And Dennis Snyder is buried as an Unknown in the Soldiers National Cemetery in Gettysburg.

You listed five men who served in other regiments before their service in the 154th. There were more. In addition to Patrick Henry Jones and John Killinger, these men also served in the 37th New York before joining the 154th: Lewis Bishop, John Blasiar (as Blazier), William Clark (as William H. Clark), Denzil J. Clarke, Orange Hammond, Byron A. Johnston, Augustus V. Laing, and James H. Lockie. Incidentally, Lockie subsequently served in both the 6th New York Cavalry and the 179th New York Infantry, for an amazing total of four regiments.

I have a list compiled from the T-289 pension index cards of about 65 members of the regiment that served in other units (other than the Veteran Reserve Corps). Most of them probably were with other units after

their service in the 154th New York, but some had previous service before they joined the 154th. I'll name three off the top of my head. Lieutenant Colonel Henry C. Loomis had been a first lieutenant in the 64th New York. Assistant Surgeon George H. Bosley served as a U.S. Army Medical Cadet before joining the 154th at Savannah in January 1865. (Bosley also enlisted in the 13th New York on November 23, 1861, but was never mustered in and was discharged for disability on January 31, 1862.) Private William H. Keyes of Co. C, 154th, was a deserter from the 78th New York.

Looking up one on the list at random—Robert Davis—I find he enlisted in the 9th New York Cavalry in September 1861 and was mustered out in April 1862 “by reason of disaffection.” (Interesting! I’ve never seen that reason before.) I don’t have this list digitized, but if you’re interested I’d be happy to scan it for you.

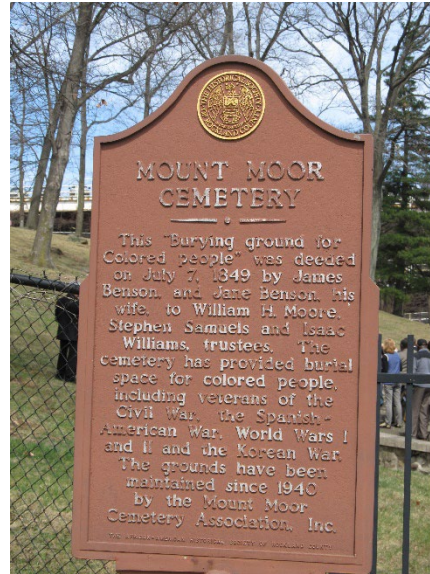
It’s been great working with you on this project, Dennis, and I’m sure we’ll continue to be in touch.

I’ll take this opportunity to say hello to my fellow Rhode Islander Henry Duquette!

In F., C., & L.,
Mark Dunkelman

www.hardtackregiment.com

Ellis Camp 124 at a ceremony honoring Black American veterans of the CW at the Mt. Moor Cemetery located within the palisades Mall, West Nyack, N.Y.. Photos courtesy of Ellis Camp.



Willard Signage



Three in a row, Willard, Thomas and Uncle Sam.

Col. George L. Willard has joined the likes of Uncle Sam and Major General George Thomas at Oakwood Cemetery in Troy, NY. New signage designed by Brother Keough and helped through production by Brothers King and Straight have been installed. This included directional signs and a marker at his grave site. This was a joint project between the Camp (from remaining General Thomas project funds) and the 125 NYVI Association.



Marker at the grave site of Col. George L. Willard.

PRIVATE JOHN ALBERT SMITH CO. H, 148TH
NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS by George A.
Shadman, Jr., PDC

In the fall of 1863, the 148th NY Volunteers sent several of its soldiers home to conduct recruiting in an effort to bring its roster up to a level to be effective in the upcoming 1864 campaign everyone was anticipating.

With this mindset, Colonel George M. Guion, commanding the regiment, assembled a detail of officers and non-commissioned officers to travel to upstate New York and enlist as many physically fit young men as they could. He did so via Special Order Number 7, Extract Number 5 from the Adjutant General's Office of the War Department.

This detail consisted of Regimental Adjutant First Lieutenant Henry T. Noyes, who was in charge of this detail, as well as Second Lieutenant Henry Parsons, Second Lieutenant William S. Vorse, First Sergeants Charles W. Housel and Jay W. Neighbor, along with Sergeants Charles Traver, Peter Woods, John S. Forman and Oliver F. Long.

Their mission proved to be a success as 140 new recruits enlisted for three years. One of these recruits was eighteen-year-old John Albert Smith who was living in the small hamlet of Tyre, New York, in upper Seneca County. His enlistment paper indicates his occupation was "farmer".

His military service with Company H, 148th New York Volunteers shows he was involved

with all of the 148th campaigns of 1864-65, including the Bermuda Hundred Campaign, the Battle of Cold Harbor, the Siege of Petersburg and the Appomattox Campaign. He did spend a small stint of time in a field hospital in Petersburg for an undetermined illness, not a battle injury.

When the war ended on April 9, 1865, regiments were being discharged, but not the 148th New York- which was assigned occupation duties in the center of Richmond. The regiment would stay there until June 22, 1865 when they were mustered out; all except those who had enlisted in the fall and winter of 1863-4. They did not go home with the regiment but were transferred to the 100th New York Volunteers. Private John A. Smith was but one of the eighty-six survivors transferred.

He was assigned to Company G. His military records indicate he was hospitalized in late July in the Stewart Military Hospital that was located on Broad Street in Richmond.

On August 17, 1865 he was mustered out with the 100th New York Regiment and sent home. He returned to northern Seneca County where he took up his pre-war occupation of farming. He married sixteen year old Mellissa A. Reynolds (1851-1936) in 1867 and together they had thirteen children, including Fred W. Smith, my wife's great-grandfather. Private Smith died in 1911 and is buried in the Fox Cemetery just north of Seneca Falls, New York.

CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION PRESENTED TO PHIL COLVIN



PPC Phil Colvin (l) & CC Bill Sebring

On December 14th in a ceremony held at American Legion Post #770 in Trumansburg, NY, Commander Sebring presented Past Post Commander Phil Colvin with a Certificate of Commendation signed by the NY Dept, SUVCW Secretary and Commander for his work in identifying, cleaning, and resetting the gravestones of Civil War veterans in the two Trumansburg cemeteries.

Thanks goes to Legion Post Commander Lee Stepp for allowing the ceremony to be conducted immediately before the regular Post membership meeting.



Department of New York

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



Dep't COMMANDER- Darin Everdyke PCC
SR. VICE COMMANDER- Brian Castler CC
JR. VICE COMMANDER- Perry Cleaveland CC
SECRETARY- Robert L. Pugsley PDC
TREASURER- Jeffrey Albanese PDC
COUNSELOR- Danny Wheeler, PC-in-C
COUNCIL-Paul Ellis-Graham, Daryl Verstreate
PDC, Ray Wheaton PDC
ARCHIVIST- Lance Ingmire
PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR- Richard E. Straight
HISTORIAN- Jerome L. Orton PDC

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

138th Encampment - Department of New York will be held
via ZOOM starting at 9:00am on Saturday, May 15th, 2021.
Pre-meeting April 21st at 7:00pm via ZOOM



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