



SUMMER 2019

THE VOLUNTEER

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

From Bob Pugsley, PDC, NY Dep't Secretary

Brothers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the delegates to the 136th New York Department Encampment for electing me to another three year term as your Department Secretary. We had a very successful Encampment at a very nice location. Also I would like to congratulate Richard Straight, DC on his election as our new Department Commander. Currently we have 437 members in sixteen Camps.

Just a few notes on procedures. Please send me your Form 30s for Change of Address. This will ensure that the Brothers will still receive the Banner and also the raffle tickets for our annual fundraiser. On average we receive back about thirty non

deliverable. This not only costs us money in postage but a possible loss of revenue in unsold tickets. Also I need to receive all Form 30s. Please do not send them directly to National; they should all go through me. Especially notice of deceased so they get the proper recognition.

Also, check our new revamped website. It looks good and Brother Lemay, PDC has worked very hard to bring in a fresh look. Also if you are reading this you have seen the latest issue of the Volunteer that Darin Everdyke, PCC has again done an outstanding job. I know he is always looking for submissions.

Last but not least.....990Ns. If your fiscal year ends on June 30th, you have until November 15th to file the 990N postcard. As we have seen, failure to do so can cause a lot of issues. If you have any questions or

problems, contact either myself or the Department Treasurer, Jeffrey Albanese, PDC for help. Actually Jeff is much more knowledgeable than me about this topic.

On another note, if anyone asks for information or help from me, and I provide it, please acknowledge that you received it so that I know. I would appreciate it.

In closing, feel free to contact myself or any of the Department Officers for any questions or help that you may need.

Yours in F, C, and L,

Bob Pugsley, PDC
New York Department Secretary, SUVCW

From Darin Everdyke, SVC, PCC

Brothers, over the last few years we have wrestled with declining membership. As SVC, it's part of my job description to look at this and try to come up with methods to stem the losses and to regain members. To this end, at the 136th Encampment, we formed a committee to explore the situation. Right now, it's just myself and Perry Cleaveland, JVC. If anyone has some strong ideas or suggestions on how to address the decline, we'd love to hear from you. We could use 3 more Brothers on this committee. I don't foresee it being a huge time drain, it'll be more of a think-tank with communications by e-mail.

This article is not intended to be a one-time posting, but the beginning of an open ended dialogue between all of us – from the individual Brothers, to the Camps, to the Dep't and National, then all the way back down again. All of us have an equal interest in keeping this organization alive, and all of us have acknowledged the responsibility to our ancestors to do so.

Therefore, I ask all of you to consider the following initial points and to send in any others that you can think of, ie., who to target for membership, how to get our name and message out, how to keep wavering members with us and how to draw back into the group those who have left..... Please also think back and recall the following points: How did you get recruited and at what age? What do you like best about the

Sons? What do you dislike? What have departing members said about their experience with us? It's a fact that we are an old (in more ways than one) organization. As more and more of our brothers leave the Sons, for whatever reason, how do we replace them? Who should we target? The discussion at the last couple of encampment was heavy on the emphasis that we should target our efforts toward young people. The exact age bracket wasn't defined, but likely much younger than the average age of those in attendance.

If we're targeting youth, say, 16-30 years old, what obstacles are we facing? Competing time commitments from school, job, sports, family? Money? Transportation? Lack of awareness that we even exist or what our function is? Lack of knowledge of their own family history and that they may be eligible? Lack of interest?

Looking at our current average age, can we draw something from that? Perhaps the older folks (50+) have the most interest, the most time to devote and fewer competing demands. Should we reconsider our targeting? Our methods? Some of the obstacles for youth would apply here as well, ie. awareness of our existence and our function.

Brothers – There is a lot of material here to think about. Please get back to me or JVC Cleaveland with your thoughts and suggestions. I'll compile and include them in the winter edition and in following editions. In the meantime, we can all work on being more visible and getting our message out. Talk to

people, show them what we're doing. At the recent encampment in Lake George I mentioned that I've been leaving copies of "The Banner" at vehicle repair shops, doctor's offices, etc... Brother Duffy picked up on that and the Baldwin Camp has expanded upon it by inserting Camp stickers in the Banners that they distribute. That's an example of what we need to do, as a start, to get the message of the SUVCW out to the world. The following articles in this edition of The Volunteer illustrate some of the activities that the Camps in our Department have held or participated in.

Lastly, as SVC, it's also one of my duties to handle the annual fundraising raffle. The last years have been moderately successful, as shown in the records kept by past SVCs. There are a few areas we can work on internally to make the process more efficient, ie. updated mailing lists...

After consulting with past SVCs, current officers and other experienced Brothers I'm going to make the following experimental change to hopefully get greater ticket purchases and returns. In addition to the traditional donated prizes we're going to offer three cash prizes of various amounts.

I am still looking for traditional donations for the raffle, i.e. gift baskets, prints, books, items...I am accepting those at any time, starting now. Please contact me so we can discuss mailing or pickup.

Yours.... Darin Everdyke, SVC, PCC

From George Weinmann PDC



Annual Ceremony for the 197th Birthday of President and General Ulysses S. Grant

Oliver Tilden Camp #26, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War once again held its annual ceremony for the 197th Birthday of President and General Ulysses S. Grant at the Grant National Memorial on West 122nd St. and Riverside Drive in Manhattan, NY on Sunday, April 28, 2019 at 11:00 AM. We thank Donald W. Shaw, Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War; Leo McGuire, New York Department Commander; Hope C. Parker, Past President, NY Department Auxiliary, SUVCW; Lynne Dolan, National Council Member #5, Past President NY Department, DUVCW; Mary F. Cordato, NY Department President, DUVCW; James DeSalvo, Commander, Archibald Gracie Camp #985, Sons of Confederate Veterans; Janice Lauletta-Weinmann, President of the

Greenpoint Monitor Museum & Aux. member SUVCW; Thomas Principe, BG Ret. NYARNG, Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Association and the Veterans of the 7th Regiment; Frank Scaturro, President Grant Monument Association and members of the Department of New Hampshire, SUVCW, Moses Baldwin Camp #544, SUVCW and Kady Brownell Tent #36, DUVCW were also in attendance.



There was a special tribute to General U.S. Grant (portrayed by Bro. Larry Clowers) and Abraham Lincoln (portrayed by Bro. Bob Costello). Bro. Larry is a member of Tilden Camp and Bro. Bob is a member of Major General George Armstrong Custer Camp #17, SUVCW. Special thanks goes to Louise and Eugene Bender for their Civil War selection of violin and voice music and SVC Arthur P. Kirmss (Singer, guitar & Civil War flute) for providing the music for the event. Special thanks also goes to 1Lt. John Portanova, Co. I 83rd NYV (9th

NYSM) SVR for leading the Color Guard and Bros. Sgt. Marc Hermann, Corp. Mark Goret, Steven J. Lally, Sergeant-at-Arms, Bro. Bill Webb and Corp. Charles Lirio for their participation and everyone that helped make the event successful.



Congratulations goes to JVC. John Gregor for being the recipient of the Bob Wilder Lord "Patriot of the Year" award. Commander-in-Chief Donald W. Shaw initiated new members. The program was dedicated in memory of our deceased Tilden Camp members and our namesake Captain Oliver Tilden, Co. E, 38th New York Volunteer Infantry who was killed at Chantilly, Virginia on September 1, 1862.

Oliver Tilden Camp SVC Arthur P. Kirmss, JVC John Gregor and Commander George J. Weinmann, PDC co-hosted of the event. The 2019 General Grant Memorial Committee thanks the National Park Service (Manhattan Sites) and everyone for making the event very successful!

Submitted by Bro. Dennis Duffy

THE BATTLEFIELDS PRESERVATION FIGHT CONTINUES ... YOUR HELP NEEDED, NOW!

The federal Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants Program is one of the most successful historic land preservation tools in American history. This matching grants program has been used to preserve more than 30,000 acres of mostly Civil War battlefield land. The American Battlefield Trust (ABT) which includes the original Civil War Trust, uses the program to protect hallowed ground outside existing National Park Service boundaries.

Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields are now included enabling the ABT to preserve more than 1,000 acres at Princeton, New Jersey; Hanging Rock, South Carolina; Kettle Creek, Georgia; and Sackets Harbor, New York.

Last year thousands called and sent letters to members of Congress in support of a reauthorization bill which would double funding to \$20,000,000 a year and enable nonprofit groups like the ABT to restore and interpret battlefield sites. The House passed it in December but the Senate was unable to

get the bill across the finish line before the end of the 115th Congress in January.

Earlier in the current session, Rep. Jody Hice of Georgia and a bipartisan coalition of 24 house members introduced a new bill, H.R. 307, while Senators Johnny Isakson, Tim Kaine and Roy Blunt introduced S. 225 in the Senate. We greatly need and appreciate your advocacy on behalf of this legislation. Please write to your Senators and Representative. Let them know that this issue is important to you, and you would like their support:

Sen. Charles Schumer, 322 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510 202-224-6542

Sen. Kristen Gillibrand, 478 Russell
Building Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4451

Representative/Congressman/woman:
Look it up at
www.house.gov/representatives by entering
your zip in the upper right of the page.

A letter carries much more weight as it takes some effort. If you don't have that much time, call or contact your federal officials by going to the American Battlefields Trust website and selecting "Preserve."

Moses A. Baldwin Camp #544 Helps Rededicate the Grave of Private John Codman Pollitz, 44th Massachusetts



On Sunday, June 2, 2019, eight members of the Moses A. Baldwin Camp #544, Hempstead, New York participated in a ceremony rededicating the grave of Private John Codman Pollitz. John was born in Brooklyn and was a resident of Roslyn, Long Island, New York who left college in Boston to enlist in Company F of the 44th Massachusetts Infantry on August 29, 1862. He died at the Regiment's hospital at New Bern, North Carolina on January 7, 1863 at the age of 19 of disease, perhaps dysentery or the cerebro-spinal meningitis which had affected others in his unit.

John's body was brought home and interred in the floor of Roslyn's then brand new Trinity Episcopal Church, an honor given as, in addition to his supreme sacrifice to preserve the Union, he had served as the first superintendent of the parish's Sunday School and had donated his soldier's pay to the church to purchase a bell for its belfry, the finishing touch for the new church. The bell that John bought was tolled for the first time at his own funeral. In 1906, a new church designed by McKim Mead & White was constructed on the site of the old including a raised floor which concealed John's grave and memorial stone which was laid flat on the ground to accommodate the new floor above.

That 110 year old floor was recently removed as part of necessary repairs thus revealing the stone. Parish officials decided to install a bronze plaque in the replacement floor over the grave and to rededicate it to honor John. The ceremony included a Mass at which the Battle Hymn of the Republic was sung by the choir and congregation followed by a dedication according to the ritual of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). The priest read a prayer asking God to reconcile warring brothers taken from a Civil War era prayer book written for soldiers. Finally, John's

name and final resting place have now been added to the 700,000 names already in the SUVCW database of graves of Union Veterans.

John's father, Otto W. Pollitz, a merchant and importer, immigrated from Hamburg, Germany in 1834 and married his mother, Mary Margaret Codman of Dorchester, Massachusetts in 1842. In addition to his parents, John was mourned by his older sister Emma and five younger brothers and sisters.

John had attended high school at Brooklyn Polytechnic when it was both a preparatory school and a college and he had moved on to college in Boston. John did not have to go to war. There was no draft at the time and, when the draft would come six months after John's death, his family, living on a 75 acre farm, could have easily afforded to pay a substitute under the rules then in effect.

Commander Fred Kuntz, led the contingent. Brother Don Mc Mahon presided at the rededication, brothers John Shaud, PCC, Scott McKendrick, PCC, William Kempner, David Kempner, Kevin Duffy, and Dennis Duffy, acting as Chaplain, participated.

Brother William Kempner is an associate member of Trinity parish. His mother was buried from the church and he is co-trustee of the Josephonis Trust established by a bequest for the benefit of Trinity Parish. When, as trustee, he approved the funds for the new floor little did he know what would be found!

More Photos At

Phil Gast's blog:

<https://civil-war-picket.blogspot.com/2019/05/a-civil-war-soldier-and-his-headstone.html> , and at

Civil War Talk:

<https://civilwartalk.com/threads/i-attended-the-dedication-ceremony-of-union-soldier-whose-grave-was-found-under-long-island-church.158684/#post-2067281> or just go to Civil War Talk and put "Pollitz" in the search box.

Episcopal News Service:

<https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2019/05/13/congregation-to-celebrate-legacy-of-parishioner-who-died-in-civil-war-was-buried-under-church/> or just go to Episcopal News service and search on "Pollitz"

Dennis J. Duffy, Secretary-Treasurer, Moses A. Baldwin Camp #544, & Graves Registration Officer, Department of New York, SUVCW

Submitted by Bro. Perry Cleaveland

Abraham Lincoln Camp# 6, SUVCW, hosted this year's Remembrance and Illumination Ceremony at the American Civil War Memorial in Waterloo, NY (birthplace of Memorial Day), on May 24, 2019. Perry Cleaveland, Camp Commander invited all Allied Orders to attend and was pleased to MC the well-attended event, which has initiated the weekend long commemoration for the last ten of its' many years. Diane Theetge, PDP, ASUVCW, carried on the tradition of her late husband, Dale Theetge, PDC, with a Memorial Lantern Procession. Waterloo's fifty-eight men, whom fought in the Civil War, were honored by a recitation of each name, rank, regiment, place death and age at death; with a placement of a luminaire and rose at each individual cenotaph. The keynote speaker, Fritz Klein, as President Abraham Lincoln, delivered an insightful look into his relationship with Frederick Douglas. Members of the Boy Scouts of America, Reynolds Battery and the 148th NYVI were also in attendance and participation.

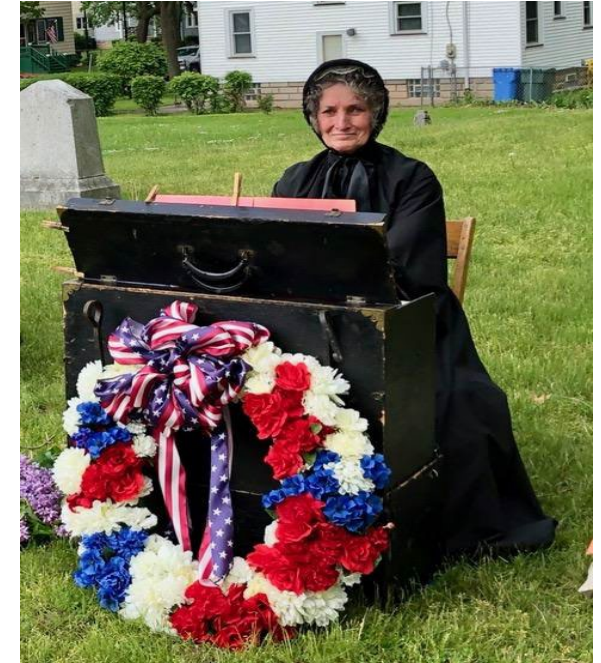
Submitted by Bro. Perry Cleaveland



Sons of Veterans of the Civil War Abraham Lincoln Camp #6, Rochester, NY and Daughters of Union Veterans Tent #56 participated May 27, 2019 in a Memorial Day observance at Rapids Cemetery at 90 Congress Avenue in the 19th Ward. The group has performed this commemoration at Rapids Cemetery for many years. Neighbor JoAnn Belle-Isle continued her annual Memorial Day commemoration with placing flags at the graves.

The program included prelude, greetings, invocation, hymns and scriptural readings with benediction. A ceremonial wreath and flowers were placed at the grave of Civil War nurse Pamela Harrison.

The memory of our nation's sacrifice lives on at Rapids Cemetery. The 19th Ward History and Archives group will complete the editing of extensive photos, text and maps for the self-guiding cell phone tour app for Rapids Cemetery in the months ahead and inform you when it is ready for release.



(Editor's note- following the service at the Rapids Cemetery, participants went to the Mt. Hope Cemetery and held the annual ceremony at the GAR plot. Also in attendance were members of the P.G. Cook Camp # 223. The following pictures are from that service. Pictures by Perry Cleaveland and Susan Berardi)



(From Bro. Jerry Orton)

Bill Sebring and Dave Neiss of D.G. Caywood Camp #146 at Ovid's strawberry festival on June 15th, 2019.





Department of New York

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Dep't COMMANDER- Richard Straight PCC

SR. VICE COMMANDER- Darin Everdyke PCC

JR. VICE COMMANDER- Perry Cleaveland PCC

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- Lance Ingmire

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR- Richard E. Straight

HISTORIAN- Jerome L. Orton PDC

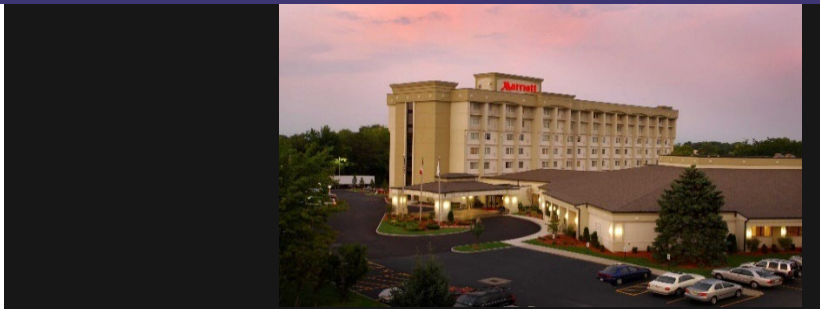


Summer 2019

THE VOLUNTEER

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

137th Encampment - Department of New York-
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War... Watch this
space – date and location not yet determined.



CHAPLAIN- Rev. Dr. Mark D. Isaacs

GAR HIGHWAY OFFICER- Matthew J. Hereford PCC

EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR- Brian Castler

WEBMASTER- Ray W. LeMay PDC

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