



Summer 2020

# THE VOLUNTEER

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

***From the NY Department Commander-  
Darin Everdyke***

Brothers –

As we struggle with today's challenges we, as members of the SUVCW and as amateur historians, are uniquely positioned to understand the current challenge in the context of World history. Almost every American generation has had its challenges with foreign and domestic wars, political strife and pestilence. Some generations have had several challenges on at once. Our time is just a continuation of "history" and this pandemic is "today's" challenge.

We've met the current challenge in one way by holding the NY Department Annual Encampment electronically via the ZOOM application. The National Encampment has

been cancelled and although there's been no alternative announced at the time of this writing, I anticipate it'll be held using a similar method as we did with ZOOM. Today's problem successfully worked around by using today's technology.

The pandemic has not stopped some of the SUVCW's Camps and members. We've observed Memorial Day, rescued a GAR file cabinet and gotten a grant to preserve a GAR hall. One of our Camps, the Willard Camp, has received a stand-alone 501C(3) status. We'll be watching this camp to see how it affects their bottom line, if it could be beneficial to other camps.

Another problem unique to today is our dramatically falling membership. We've created a committee to explore the causes and possible solutions. Efforts have already

begun by using a "today" technology – Facebook. At the Department Encampment (via ZOOM) we voted to budget a small sum of money as an experiment to see if linked advertising on Facebook would draw any more interest in the order. Other efforts are in the works. The Recruiting and Retention Committee members are – Jeff Albanese (Chair), Perry Cleveland, Dennis Duffy, Danny Wheeler and myself.

The pandemic has not stopped us, just slowed us down for a bit. As we figure out how to work in our "new normal", while waiting for a vaccine, we can still be planning, doing and succeeding in our stated mission.

***Yours, in Fidelity, Charity and Loyalty,  
Darin Everdyke,  
Commander, Dep't of NY, SUVCW***

## ***From PDC Jeff French***

### **Memorial Day Tradition Continues**

On Monday morning the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, the Copenhagen American Legion Floyd Lyng Post 723 and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) Walter H. French Camp #17 conducted multiple Memorial Day cemetery ceremonies.

The first was dedicating a headstone for a Civil War veteran who didn't have a headstone for over 100 years. One was finally obtained and placed for PVT Franklin Scidmore. The SUVCW and Andy Hodge worked together and procured a headstone from the Veterans Administration.

Franklin Scidmore enlisted at the age of 18 on July 30, 1862 in Rodman, NY. He was a Private in Company D, First Battalion, Black River Artillery, later known as Company B, 10<sup>th</sup> Artillery. Scidmore died of disease February 24, 1863 at Fort Richmond, New York Harbor. His body was transported to South Rutland Cemetery in Tylerville, NY. Both the American Legion Post 723 and the French Camp #17 render a headstone dedication and honors of a past veteran with the Tylerville community attending. Following the ceremony; both Post 723 and

French Camp #17 performed 9 Memorial Fay Cemetery Ceremonies in Both Lewis and Jefferson County. It was a privilege and honor for these patriotic groups to remember the fallen, Lest We Forget.



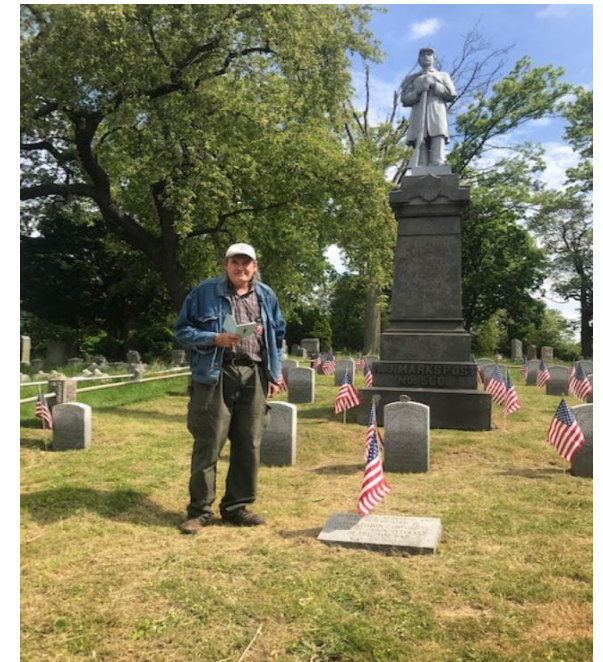
*(Left to right – Sam Bundy, Bill Bamann, Lester Beyer, Alex Rodriguez, Bob Roshia II, Andy Hodge, Jim Bond, Jeff French, Jim Cook, Fred Tomaselli)*

### ***Memorial Day activities from other Brothers and Camps around NY..***

#### ***From Brother George Weinman –***

Janice and I walked 4 miles from Greenpoint to Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Maspeth Queens yesterday in honor of our Nation's War Dead for Memorial Day. Along our walk we placed a flag at Greenpoint's USS Monitor memorial and then crossed

the Kosciusko Bridge to Queens. Our destination was the Civil War Veterans' Robert Marks GAR Post Plot at Mt. Olivet Cemetery where Oliver Tilden Camp #26, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War obtained the Government headstones for its deceased Civil War veterans. Janice placed a flag at the gravesite of a crew member of the Monitor Class Ironclad ship "Passaic" which was built in Greenpoint, where the USS Monitor was built. George read a SUVCW ceremonial prayer for the deceased. Followed by our 4 mile walk home.







*From Lincoln Camp #6 in Rochester*



*PCC Bruce Glazer Renders a hand salute at Mt. Hope Cemetery. Flowers were laid by PCC Charles Smeltzer and Phyllis Smock.*

***From Dep't Historian Jerry Orton***

This presentation badge was presented to Henry Burhans, who was NY Dept. Commander, Grand Army of the Republic, 1904-1905.

He was a 1st Lieutenant of the 149th NYSV and brevet Colonel. He was elected department commander at Rochester, June 16, 1904. He presided at the 39th annual encampment, June 20-22, 1905, Syracuse, NY.

He died December 2, 1908 and is buried in Fayetteville, NY with a beautiful memorial.

The badge has 1.75 ounces of gold and 43 rose cut diamonds of various sizes and is suitably engraved on the reverse side.



## GAR FILING CABINET RESCUED

My GAR Filing Cabinet story started a few years ago when I met Ms. Sally Krantz, Past National President of the Ladies of the GAR, on a local tour that I was driving. Sally told me about the cabinet which she had had for many years, and asked me if I could pick it up. Sally's health issues prevented us from coordinating this and eventually the cabinet wound up in her estate. Sally's friend Kathryn Foit, a member of the Ladies of the GAR and the Auxiliary to the SUVCW notified then Department Commander Straight that the cabinet was at risk of ending in a dumpster. Because of the nature of the contents, burial records of Union veterans, he asked Department Graves Registration Officer Dennis Duffy to look into the matter. Meantime, Kathryn got the cabinet moved to her apartment earning her the Department's Dr. Mary Walker Award and our enduring gratitude for her decisive action.

Last December, Dennis asked me to contact Kathryn and then the virus shut us all down. When some restrictions were lifted, fellow Chaplain PG Cook 223 Camp member Thomas Place and I visited Kathryn in early

June, and retrieved the big four drawer metal GAR Cabinet.

Before departing, Tom and I chatted with Ms. Kathryn for a short time and she told us of Sally Krantz's passing a year prior and how she came to acquire the cabinet, from her estate. Kathryn allowed that she was much relieved that we made contact with her. She didn't know what else to do with the cabinet and was fearful that it would be lost as much other history has been.



### THE GAR CABINET CONTENTS

Brother Thomas Place and I couldn't wait to see what treasures this Cabinet would contain. It appears that some of cabinet's contents were removed years ago. The lock is broken and the 4 drawers are a bit less than half full. What we found was burial records of 2,641 Veterans mostly of the Civil

War but including some from the Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican War and the Spanish-American War in cemeteries located in Buffalo and nearby including *Forest Lawn* (1,695), *Limestone Hill/Holy Cross*, Lackawanna (221), *Pine Hill* (517), *Concordia* (121), *Black Rock* (44) and *Lakeside*, Hamburg (43), letters from veterans regarding GAR plots and burials, a few original maps of Buffalo's Forest Lawn Cemetery and the GAR Plot in that cemetery. The crown jewel was a large master book of most of these burials. We already have a database which contains information on 2,500 Civil War veterans graves in Forest Lawn alone so we are probably aware of most of the graves listed in the cabinet's papers. However there are sure to be some additions to and corrections to our database once the records are matched.

### THE CEMETERY CARD FILES

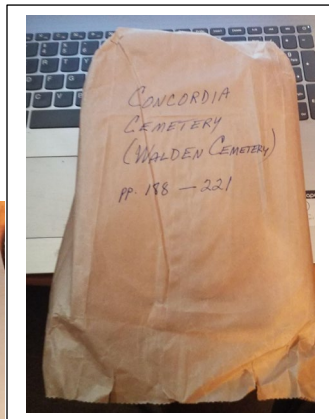
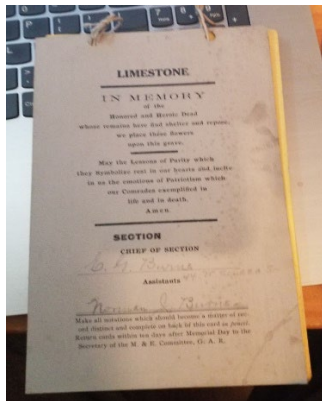
These cemetery card files are made on a hard board or tad board type paper - 5 ½ inches X 8 ½ inches. The cover of each card file was egg shell white or a light gray. This Cover has the Cemetery's name and location, near the bottom was the name of person in charge of the information for that cemetery, chief of that section, and their assistant. The back of the cards have



additional information and corrections. The following pages or Card Files are yellow. Each card has a Cemetery Title, and Section of each part of that given cemetery. Information provided is grave #, full name, unit served, death date, age, and type of headstone (military, GAR, or private).

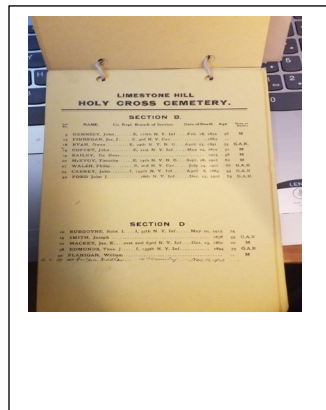
## FILES

Each of these Card Files had some type of duplicate filing. Each duplicate was placed in a Sandwich Brown Paper Bag, which Identified the Cemetery, Location, and what Printed Paged of those Reference Cards



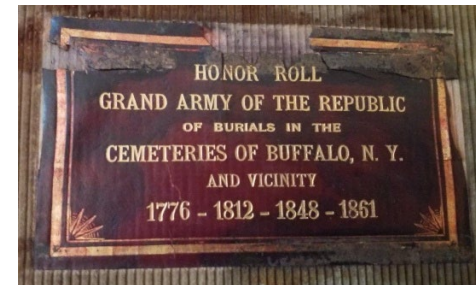
## WHAT WERE THESE CARD FILES USED FOR?

These card files were used to make sure that the graves were maintained and marked on Memorial Day and perhaps other patriotic holidays. The cover of each states who was responsible for record keeping for that cemetery and who for a given year was in charge of maintaining each section (Chief of Section), and their Assistant. These assisted with maintaining those Union Soldiers graves by planting flowers, cleaning markers, flag placement, etc. Many of the Cards had hand written names or added information.



## THE CROWN JEWEL

The crown jewel of the lot was the Master Book of Union Veteran Burials.

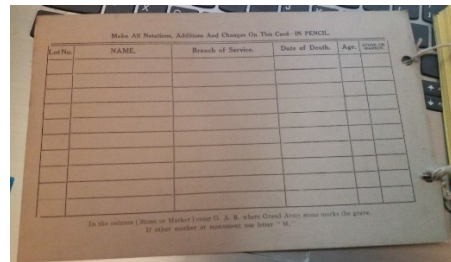
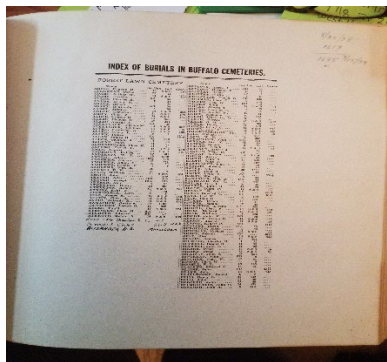
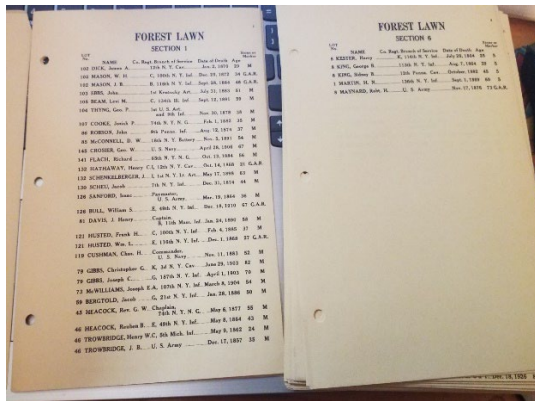


## HONOR ROLL GRAND ARMY of the REPUBLIC of BURIALS in the CEMETERIES of BUFFALO, NY and VICINITY 1776 - 1812 - 1848 - 1861

This book was printed by Adams & White Company, 94-96 Pearl Street, Buffalo, NY

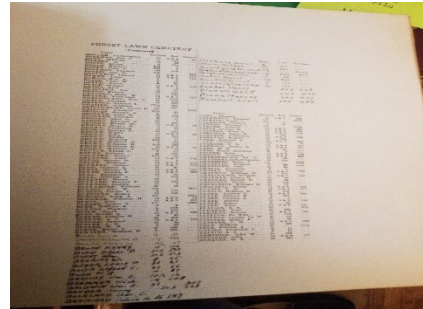
This big monster Master Book, was used I am guessing from 1890 to the last hand

written entry in 1939. For Forest Lawn Cemetery there is an alphabetical listing as well as a listing by section. Some of the side notes indicated that many of Buffalo's smaller cemeteries were consolidated into Forest Lawn Cemetery. For example, Buffalo Cemetery was closed at the turn of the century and the bodies were reinterred at Forest Lawn.

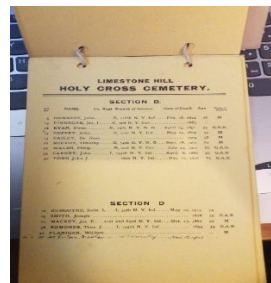


Concordia Cemetery has about 6 other smaller church cemeteries within it.

I have been spending much of my free time, adding names and cross referencing these new entries with my existing database. These records will be kept in a safe place, at



the Echoes Through Time Learning Center & Civil War Museum, located just 30 miles south of Buffalo in Springville, NY



I am Executive Director of NY State's ONLY Civil War museum. Thomas Place is our

Curator. We are proud of our museum's collections, as well as our large Reference Library of Civil War titles. We are a 501 (c) 3 Non Profit Museum Chartered by the NYS Board of Regents working closely with our area genealogy societies and the Concord Historical Society which is just around the corner from our museum and at which we host a monthly Civil War lecture usually the last Wednesday of each month, and we are associated with the Chaplain Philo G, Cook Camp #223 in Buffalo. We do historical talks, demonstrations, historical research, Civil War soldier research. Looking for a place to donate a Civil War item or a book? Think of us. Looking for a tax write off – think of us. Looking for help finding information on your Civil War ancestor? Think of us.

## CONTACT US ANYTIME

[ETThistory@gmail.com](mailto:ETThistory@gmail.com)

[www.EchoesThroughTime.org](http://www.EchoesThroughTime.org) Facebook – Echoes Through Time (museum group), for daily CW history postings.

Thank you and come visit us sometime

Brother Steve Teeft, PCC

Chaplain PG Cook Camp # 223, Buffalo, NY

[Director@EchoesThroughTime.com](mailto:Director@EchoesThroughTime.com)

Echoes Through Time Learning Center & Civil War Museum

45 East Main Street,

Springville, NY



***From Darin Everdyke, Lincoln Camp***

**#6**

In recent months we've seen a wave of violence and vandalism directed at various facets of our society. The targets seem to be whatever one particular group or individual seems offensive at the moment. The main public message of the majority of these groups is against racism and hate. However, some groups or individuals have lashed out at precisely the opposite – those things which have been instrumental in fighting oppression. Cases in point; Civil War monuments, memorials and statues of Federal soldiers and prominent citizens. In Rochester, the first Fredrick Douglass statue has had several different homes. In October of 2019 it was removed from Highland Park and placed in the new

Frederick Douglass Memorial Plaza.



Several more of his statues are scattered around Rochester.



Twice in recent months his statues have been vandalized,



as have monuments to the 77th NY in Saratoga,



and the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Regiment of "Glory" fame,



along with the removal of many others.

When the symbols and memorials of the people that the loudest people should be holding up high are the very ones they're tearing down, it paints a stark picture of what

we, the SUVCW, face in our efforts to educate the public on what our ancestors stood for. Our mission will become increasingly difficult as the voices become louder and more violent. Our heritage and its meaning cannot be allowed to be drowned out and erased.

“The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUCVW) is a fraternal organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of veteran

heroes who fought and worked to save the Union in the American Civil War.”

So states the first sentence on the National web page greeting visitors to our Order. Education and recruitment are our best tools for accomplishing this task. We must get our message out above and around the noise of current political agendas and tension.



## 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 Verstreat  
PDC, Ray Wheaton PDC  
ARCHIVIST- Lance Ingmire  
PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR- Richard E. Straight  
HISTORIAN- Jerome L. Orton PDC



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## THEVOLUNTEER

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

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  
Newsletter Editor - Darin Everdyke  
[wiseacres1@frontiernet.net](mailto:wiseacres1@frontiernet.net)

138<sup>th</sup> Encampment - Department of New York- TBA  
Probably the Crowne Plaza in Suffern, NY in June 2021

