



2nd Quarter 2025

# THE VOLUNTEER

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

Brothers,

Recently, Moses Baldwin Camp Commander Don McMahon bought a book on e-bay which, in great detail, describes an event in Utica in 1897. This and a few 'phone calls caused us to learn the following:

In 1897, the Veterans Associations of the Civil War Regiments from Oneida County turned their battle flags over to the Oneida County Historical Society. Apparently they had not complied with the 1865 order to bring the flags to Albany. One regiment, the 97th had complied but wanted to participate and wanted their flags to come home so they asked for their flags back. It required the Legislature to pass a law, which they did. In 2012 the Historical Society realized it had not the resources to be good steward and turned most of the

flags over to the NYS Military Museum in Saratoga Springs.

The Oneida County Historical Society is now the Oneida County History Center on Genesee St.

**Arrangements are in the works to view the flags which remain in Utica at 3PM on Friday April 4.**

So far, several Brothers and a few other people have expressed an interest. The History Center charges \$10 per person for such special viewings.

Would you like to join us?

This is not an official part of the Encampment.

In F., C., & L.

Bro. Dennis Duffy

Dear officers, members and friends of Tilden Camp:

Oliver Tilden Camp #26 extends an invitation to you from the 2025 General Grant Birthday Committee to our annual ceremony for National Park Service to commemorate the 203rd Anniversary of the birth of General and President Ulysses S. Grant. Saturday, April 26, 2025, 11:00 am at the General Grant National Memorial at West 122nd St. and Riverside Drive in Manhattan. National, Department, Tent, Camp and Auxiliary Officers and members that make up the Allied Orders of the G.A.R., along with patriotic and historical organizations will be in attendance. Speakers, Color Guard and Wreath laying ceremony on the front plaza of the mausoleum. (If it rains, the ceremony will take place in the rotunda inside Grant's National Memorial).

If you are a new or transferred camp member, you are invited to the Grant ceremony to be initiated into our order. Please let me know if you will be in attendance. Your name will be called out during the ceremony to be initiated.

Suggested attire:

Kepi (if you have one)

Blue Blazer

light color or dark blue pants

We hope to see you there!

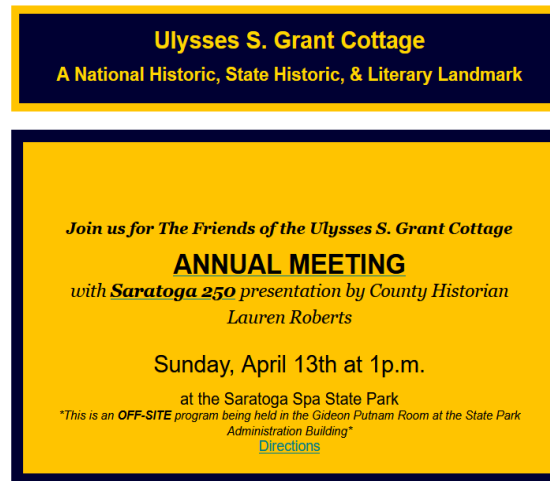
[Submission Form for 2025 Grant Memorial Journal](#)

Yours in,

Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

George J. Weinmann, (Commander) Captain  
Co. I, 83rd New York Vol. (9th NYSM), SVR  
Commander [Oliver Tilden Camp](#)  
[#26](#), SUVCW

Past NY Department Commander Sons of  
Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1 Centre  
Street, 22nd Floor, Suite 2208  
New York, NY 10007



Saratoga County Historian, Lauren Roberts, will give a **sneak preview of the historic event Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Saratoga in 2027**. Local events begin in 2025.



The overlook at Grant Cottage gives a panoramic view of the grounds of the Revolutionary War, including an interpretive panel. Ulysses Grant often enjoyed the view from the overlook which now has a memorial in his honor. No doubt President Grant knew this very spot changed the course of America. Access to the overlook, site grounds and walking trails, interpretive panels, audio app grounds tour, and visitor center with exhibits and a gift shop are FREE to the public anytime the site is open.

*From Brother Ted Phillips*

Recently I visited the Bayles Boat Shop and met Mr. Len Carolan, President of the Long Island Seaport and Eco Center, who is working on building a Whaleboat following the design from the Revolutionary War era. We had a great discussion about the project, the work done to date, and the materials they are using. Mr. Carolan invited the Sons of the American Revolution LI Chapter to visit the Boat Shop to see the whaleboat and speak to the craftsman. It is hoped that the whaleboat will be used in local celebrations of the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

This project is an effort to promote the story of Port Jefferson's role in the Culper Spy Ring. It was strongly felt that the building of the whaleboat would be a unique way of embracing Port Jefferson's maritime history and its instrumental role in the Revolutionary War effort, telling the story of our Colonial forebears involved in that struggle and engaging the community in the process. Here is a link for more information and when you visit, please let the boat builders know you are from the SAR!!

<https://www.lisec.org/copy-of-builds-and-restorations>

Please let me know if you have any additional questions. Best regards,

Ted

Hello Brothers,

I received an email from Tilden Camp Member Robert Worden, his ancestor was Captain John Worden of the USS Monitor. He has a new book coming out in April called *"From Ironclads to Admiral: John Lorimer Worden and Naval Leadership."*

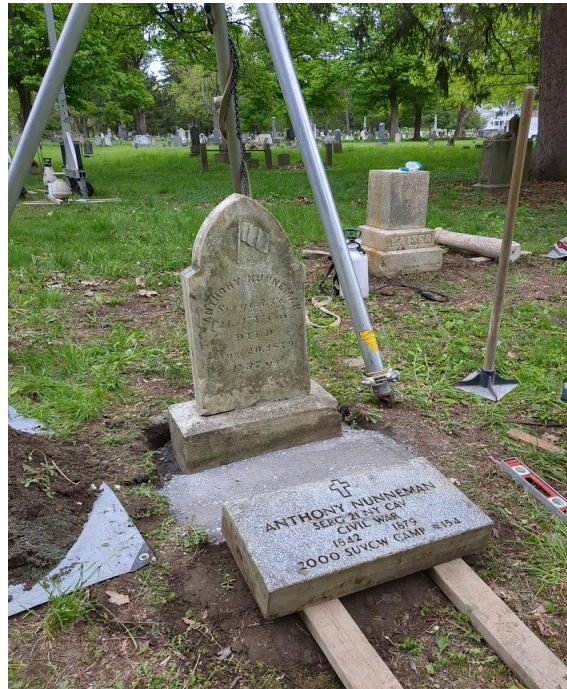
Brother Worden wants to do presentations in New York on his new book. Maybe you can invite him to a camp meeting or the encampment. If you know a historical Society, Archives, etc. that would be interested in his presentation, please contact Bro. Robert Worden at [wordenannapolis@aol.com](mailto:wordenannapolis@aol.com). He would like to hear from his NY brothers!

Thanks!

FC&L,

George J. Weinmann, PDC  
Commander

## Fall 2024 Update on the Mt. Ida Conservation Project



**Conservation of the gravestones of Anthony Nunneman, 21st NY Cavalry. The original stone was re-set and the modern stone was re-leveled. Both were cleaned.**

Grave Stone Matters (Joe Ferrannini) and Cameron Smith started the Fall, 2024 effort at New Mt. Ida Cemetery on September 30. Work under the ARPA grant started in earnest on October 1st and was to continue until October 15. Rain-outs caused the work to be extended until October 20. Volunteers from the community helped locate buried monuments, assisted in excavating them and cleaned them before

they were re-set. Groups involved included Willard Camp, the Van Rensselaer Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and a good mix of neighbors. In addition to the conservation work, some cemetery cleanup was also done. On October 5, a large amount of tree waste and on-site and work generated rubble was loaded onto a truck for disposal by a group of volunteers from the RPI Knights of Columbus Council 13635. They also assisted in excavating, cleaning and resetting multiple monuments.

During this round of work 55 monuments were conserved in New Mt. Ida Cemetery. With 63 conserved during the spring effort, the total for 2024 is 119 monuments! Our final work party will be held during the Spring of 2025. At that time we will have expended our total ARPA allocation.



**Re-setting the original grave stone of William Christie, 4thNY, in New Mt. Ida Cemetery.**



## SAR Wreath Laying



On September 15, 2024 SUVCW Camp Commander John Swartwout presented a wreath as part of the Annual Memorial Wreath Laying at the Monument to the Unknown American Dead. Each year, the Saratoga Battle Chapter SAR pays respects to the soldiers buried nearby by laying a wreath at the "DAR Monument." Dedicated in 1931 by the Daughters of the American Revolution of New York State, the "DAR Monument" is the largest memorial at the Saratoga National Historic Park. It was erected to commemorate those unknown soldiers buried during the critical Battles of Saratoga in 1777.

-Contributions from Michael Golden

*(The following contribution is from Leo McGuire, PDC)*

I am writing to inform you about the Carlton Covell Award. This joint award is named after Carlton Covell and is presented annually to a high school senior who has demonstrated excellence in Social Studies/American History throughout their school career. The award is sponsored by the Saratoga Battle Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, where Compatriot Covell served as President, and the Col. George L. Willard Camp #154 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, where Brother Covell served as Camp Commander. The total amount of the award is \$200.00, with \$100.00 contributed by the Saratoga Battle Chapter and \$100.00 contributed by the Sons' Camp #154.

The award is given on a rotating basis to one student per year at one high school that offers JROTC. It is CBA's turn this year. If you would like us to give the award to a senior in the JROTC program, please inform us of the name of the student. Major Golden, the JROTC program coordinator, should be presenting the JROTC medal. I would be honored with Major Golden, to present the Covell award with a check for \$200.00.

It could be the same student for both awards.

Brother LTC Rogler was a member of the Sons and the SAR. His friends and family gave funds in his name to continue the Covell award. I believe he, his son and grandson attended CBA. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. .

I am the Covell Chairman for the SUVCW and a retired CW3 (NYARNG). I belong to the Military Officers Association of America..

Major Golden is a member of the SUVCW, Sons of the American Revolution, Military Officers Association of America and a Veteran of the United States Marine Corps. He is currently a Major in the NY Naval Militia.

Major Golden is the JROTC/ROTC chairman.

*(From Darin Everdyke, PDC)*

Greetings, Brothers....

I'll risk boring you with some musings on the GAR and how we got to where we are, coming up to the 142<sup>nd</sup> Encampment of the SUVCWNY....

Some time ago, I came into possession of an original copy of the proceedings of the 1892 New York Department Encampment of the GAR in bound hardcover form. (Hold this thought...)

Recently, I was contacted by Brother Daniel B. Pourreau, Senior Vice Commander of the Department of Texas and Louisiana. He is conducting research on his wife's ancestor, Arthur Weston Moore, who was born in England in 1840, served in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 7th NY LT ART as a surgeon's mate, and died in 1913. A.W. Moore was later aide de camp to a GAR CinC and lived in Rochester NY. While reading through the 1892 Encampment Proceedings, I found entries that confirmed A.W. Moore was an aide-de-camp to the Department Commander. He also attended as an alternate delegate of the GAR Post 391, Rochester, under Post Commander Henry S. Redman.

Also, while reading through this book, it struck me again that **EVERY** man attending this Encampment had his own story to tell

about his wartime experiences, and his life before and after serving.

We in today's SUVCW are tasked and dedicated to telling those stories and preserving their memories.

I'm going to devote the remainder of this article to the state of the veterans and the GAR at that moment in time of the 1892 Encampment and to occasionally compare it to our upcoming Encampment some 133 years later.

Around 450,000 men from New York served in the Civil War across the various branches. At the time of the 1892 Encampment on March 1st, roughly 27 years after the end of the war, there were 41,221 men on the rolls of the GAR Department. There were 615 Posts in *JUST NEW YORK STATE*. Compare that to today's SUVCW with a little over just 1% of the 1892 GAR membership of 473, across 17 Camps. I could not find the total attendance of the 1892 encampment, but the roll call of just the Posts and delegates covered **SEVENTY FOUR pages in the book !!!!!**

Getting to the Encampment just got a whole lot more affordable. The Department Commander, on February 2, 1892, announced that negotiations with seven train lines composing the Trunk Line Association in New York have yielded a fare price that

includes a full round trip for the price of a one-way ticket. Basically, half-price on the encampment dates. Imagine having an organization large enough to be able to haggle ½ price fares with 7 rail lines?

The GAR's Encampment committees, like our SUVCW committees, had arranged for reduced hotel fares. The book lists the prices per day for no fewer than TWELVE hotels, with a total reserved room capacity for 1700 people. The cheapest was the Fillmore at "...one dollar and twenty-five cents per day...". The most expensive on the list was the Iroquois at a whopping "...four dollars and fifty cents per day; with bath, five dollars..." Literally, only 1-5% of what we're paying in 2025.

I've been repeatedly told that our Blue Book closely follows the old GAR rituals and rules of order. Upon reading the Encampment proceedings, I can testify that it very much does... to the letter.

The spoken minutes were captured *verbatim*, with each speaker's name attached to his words. Even the Chaplain's opening prayers were captured word for word. As Department Ass't Secretary, I can fully appreciate how difficult a task that must have been when all that was available at time was pen and paper.

Having the encampment captured verbatim opens a window on the mood and temper of

the encampment and how the men interacted and comported themselves. Note- each man was addressed as “comrade”, rather than “brother”, as we do today. The English language has drifted a bit since then..

During the meeting, tempers flared and members occasionally addressed each other in less than flattering language, couched in the vague and flowery Victorian Era rhetoric that today is almost incomprehensible.

The GAR was certainly a political organization. They had serious agendas and plans to carry them out. Their agenda was mainly concerned with, but not limited to, veterans’ benefits. However, unlike today’s SUVCV, they weren’t constrained by fear of losing their status as a 501C(3), or incurring other governmental sanctions based on the political winds of the moment. Given their vast numbers they, in some ways, WERE the government. Among the agenda topics discussed were pensions for the veterans. This was a massive amount on the US Treasury and a very hot topic – costs per year were mentioned up to \$250,000,000 dollars, depending on which factors were included. That’s in actual 1892 dollars... The highest numbers mentioned included the pensions of all the veterans of previous wars, their widows and all administrative costs.

As we know, in 1881 the Sons of Union Veterans was founded. By the 1892 Encampment they were firmly established and existing concurrently with the GAR. As an example of how they were regarded - on page 150 of the proceedings, Commander Freeman states – “The Sons of Union Veterans are also entitled to our support and sympathy; for do we not realize that they are “bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh,” that our mantle will soon fall on them, that the duties we now perform must be performed by them? Then let us hail their coming and give them a royal welcome.”

Darin Everdyke, PDC

## *Passings-*

### Frank Rogler



DELMAR - LTC, Francis E. "Frank" Rogler, U.S. Army, N.Y. National Guard (Ret.), 88, passed away peacefully on Thursday, January 30, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

Born and raised in Albany, Frank was the son of the late Frederick B. and Rita M. Mahan Rogler. Frank was a 1954 graduate of Milne High School, Norwich University, 1957 and Union University (Mass., Industrial Engineering). After graduating from Norwich, Frank was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Army and began training at Ft. Sam Houston. After retiring from active-duty, Frank rose through the ranks of N.Y.S. National Guard, where he held numerous command positions, finally

retiring with the rank of LTC in 1989. Frank retired from SUNY Albany in 1990, after twenty years with the University, serving in a variety of roles.

On August 4, 1962, he married Mary Catherine "Kay" McGrath, and together they raised their family in Delmar. Frank was a communicant of St. Thomas the Apostle, Delmar, and an active member of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, (Col. George L. Willard Camp #154), General Society of the War of 1812 (Lt. Col. John E. Wool Chapter) and Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution (Saratoga Battle Chapter). He enjoyed traveling, all outdoor activities, was an avid woodworker, model train enthusiast, and spending time with his children, grandchildren, and great-granddaughter. Frank was predeceased by his parents; and his brother and sister-in-law, James E. and B. Jean McGrath.

He is survived by his wife, Kay; and their children, Susan (Henry Gomez), Scott (Barbara), Sharon (David Tromp); their grandchildren, Daniel Gomez, James (Carissa) and Connor Rogler, Margaret, Patrick and Kathryn Tromp; great-granddaughter, Aurora Rogler; sister, Barbara (Armand) Guerin; brother and sister-in-law, Kevin J. and Christine R. McGrath; and many nieces, and nephews. Calling hours will be Friday

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Frank's memory to the Covell Scholarship Award at the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Col. George L Willard Camp#154, at <https://glwillard154.org/contact-us> or the [charity of your choice](#).

## *Calendar-*

Friday, April 4- 2:00pm – Battle flag viewing at Oneida County History Center, 1608 Genesee St, Utica, NY 13502

Friday, April 4, campfire and start of the 142<sup>nd</sup> NY Department Encampment

Saturday, April 5, General Business meeting.

Saturday, April 26, 2025, 11:00 am 203<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the birth of General and President Ulysses S. Grant. at the General Grant National Memorial at West 122nd St. and Riverside Drive in Manhattan



## Department of New York

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



**DEP'T COMMANDER - William Stump**

**SR. VICE – Axel Ravera**

**JR. VICE COMMANDER- Ted Phillips**

**SECRETARY- Robert L. Pugsley PDC**

**TREASURER- Jeffrey Albanese PDC**

**COUNSELOR- Danny Wheeler, PC-in-C**

**COUNCIL-Paul Ellis-Graham, Brian Castler**

**PDC, Jeff French PDC**

**ARCHIVIST- Brian Castler PDC, Jeff French**

**PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR- Douglas Brenner  
PCC**

*142nd NY Department Encampment - 4-6 April, 2025. Meeting at  
Utica Polytechnic Institute, staying at the Holiday Inn.*



**HISTORIAN- Jerome L. Orton PDC**

**CHAPLAIN- Rev. Dr. Mark D. Isaacs**

**GAR HIGHWAY- Matthew J. Hereford PCC**

**EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR Ted Phillips**

**GRAVES REGISTRATION- Dennis Duffy**

**WEBMASTER- Ray W. LeMay PDC**

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR– Darin Everdyke PDC**

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2nd Quarter 2025

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