



3rd Quarter 2025

THE VOLUNTEER

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



Brothers of New York, I want to thank you for entrusting me with a year as the Department Commander. It is an honor and privilege to serve.

Congratulations to Brother Anton Schwarzmüller on his election to Department Senior Vice Commander.

Congratulations to Brother Ted Phillips on his election to Department Junior Vice Commander.

Congratulations to Brother Robert Pugsley on his election to Department Secretary.

Congratulations to Brother Jeffrey Albanese on his election to Department Treasurer.

Congratulations to Brothers Brian Castler, Phurriott Henry, and Robert Dauchy on their election to Department Council.

Please remind the brother in your camps that July is the bottle/can drive to raise funds for our department and camps. 50% for the Department Scholarship Program and the other 50% stays with the Camp. If your camp is too small to do a drive the members can turn in bottles/cans as individuals and whatever is raised is just

fine. Every bit whether large or small helps our cause.

I pray we will have a successful year in recruitment, retention, and fundraising for our Camps and Department.

I ask the Camp Commanders to get the word out for our members to engage at Department level. We need new faces to start filling the ranks at Department level for future leaders as well as appointed positions. It is vitally important for our longevity as a Department.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,
Brother French, DC

**From Diane Theetge- Daughters
Aux**



WE march in our little towns Memorial Day Parade every year handing out American flags to the little ones and Veterans. The money comes from the Cake booth we run at our towns Strawberry Festival.



Marching this year were left to right Tammy Slougher, Colleen Casey, Diane Theetge, Tammy Moore and Nancy Lauster

**COLONEL ELLIS CAMP #124
AWARDS ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP
ON MEMORIAL DAY**

Aidan McDonagh from Pearl River, New York and a senior at Nanuet Senior High School won this year's Colonel Augustus van Horne Ellis Memorial Scholarship and Essay Contest given out on Memorial Day annually since 2006 by the Colonel Augustus van Horne Ellis Camp # 124 SUVCW. Aidan will be attending either USMA at West Point or Virginia Polytechnic Institute this coming fall.

This year's essay question was "Describe the economic and industrial advantages that the Northern states had over the Southern states that seceded from the Union and how those advantages led to a Union victory."

The scholarship is offered each year to a high school senior from one of the high schools in the 7 counties covered by the camp. The applicant must provide a written application, along with a reference letter and an essay on a specified question to be eligible for the scholarship. The scholarship may be used in attending college or entering the military. This year there were 30 applicants from 15 different high schools with 14 applications from Orange County, 5 applications from Rockland County, 4 applications from Sullivan County, 3 applications from Ulster County and 2 each from Putnam and Westchester.

French Camp -



**Sunday Memorial Service
Ceremonies**

The Copenhagen American Legion Floyd Lyng Post 723 and the Walter H French Camp #17 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War teamed up in brotherhood to lead the Copenhagen Memorial Day Parade on 26 May 2025.

It was a sunny day in Copenhagen, NY on 26 May 2025. The local public turned out in a huge crowd to watch the parade sponsored by Copenhagen Collaborative Cares and the American Legion Post 723. The line up started at 9:45 AM with the children decorating their bikes with the American Flags. The Copenhagen School Band were on hand to keep everyone in step when marching as well as good music. Rutland Fire Department also in the parade with their trucks and providing road guards. Everyone was excited to be able to

participate to show their patriotism and remembrance of those who gave all.

Brother Jeff French, DC and Brother Bob Roshia II did Guard for the Colors and Brother Blake Moore carried the Flag, Brothers Kris Haskins was on the Fire Team, and Brother Sam Lundy did the Chaplain portion of the Riverside Cemetery and Bandstand ceremonies. 10:00 AM sharp the Floyd Lyng Post 723, and the Walter H French Camp #17 stepped off leading the parade.

Enroute, they stopped at Riverside Cemetery to pay homage to our brave men and women with parade participants in tow. Then they marched to the Bandstand to conduct the final honors for all who gave all. The Copenhagen School Band performed TAPS at both ceremonies. The parade ended at the Bandstand after the

conclusion of the ceremony.



The local populace then proceeded to the pavilion to partake in the chicken BBQ and Ice Cream Social where they bonded for a common cause of patriotic display.

Written by
Jeffrey French
NY Department Commander
Walter H. French Camp #17
NY Department SUVCW

Comments from PCC Kuntz:

This recently discovered picture from the National Portrait Gallery depicts Silas Titus (on the right), First Lieutenant and Adjutant of the 12th New York Volunteer Infantry as well as his young son, Silas Wright Titus (holding the bugle). Young Silas would have been around twelve years of age at the time this photograph was taken, probably in the Spring or summer of 1862 on the Virginia Peninsula.

The Veterans Schedule of the 1890 US Census list the younger Titus as a bugler, in the 12th NY, serving four years from 1861 to 1865. The senior Titus later was appointed Colonel of the 122nd NY and commanded that regiment at the Battle of Gettysburg. The soldier on the has not been unidentified.

The elder Titus is my wife's great-great grandfather and his son is her great grandfather.

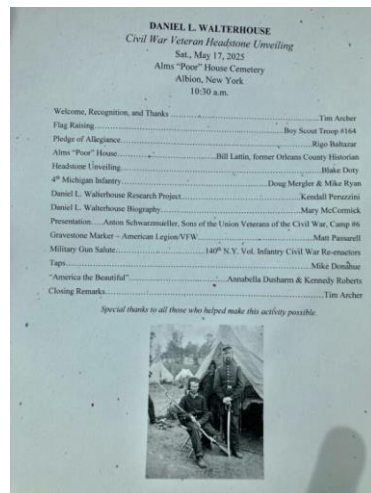
Fred Kuntz, PCC, Moses A. Baldwin, Camp 544, SUVCW

4th Michigan Infantry who lost track of Daniel Walterhouse after the veteran departed Michigan for his 1823 birthplace, Orleans County. Mr. Archer set two of his students, Kendall Peruzzini and Mary McCormick, to the task of researching what happened to Daniel Walterhouse. They found that he had been admitted to the Orleans County Alms House in 1893 and 1895 as a widower with no local family. Walterhouse suffered from two woundings in service: After being captured in action 1 Jul 1862 at the battle of Malvern Hill, he was stabbed below the left knee in consequence of an escape attempt. At Antietam, his right ankle was smashed from falling off a wagon.

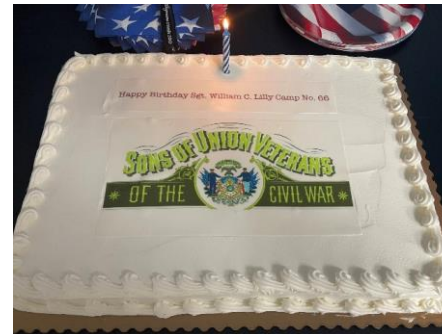
The dedication ceremony was opened by Tim Archer and the raising of the flag by Boy Scout Troop #164. Retired Orleans County Historian Bill Lattin spoke about the County Alms Houses that once stood on the site. The headstone was unveiled, followed by brother Douglas Mergler speaking about the 4th Michigan Infantry. Miss Peruzzini and Miss McCormick told the assembly about their research and what they learned about Daniel Walterhouse. Camp Commander Anton Schwarzmüller presented each of the girls with framed letters of appreciation, from Abraham Lincoln Camp and the Department of New York, for their diligent research that brought this honorable soldier into our collective consciousness. The 140th NY Infantry re-

enactors, including brother Douglas Mergler, fired two volleys. Members of the local V.F.W. and American Legion provided a Civil War Veteran graveside flag holder.

Rochester NBC affiliate Channel 10 posted a news story on YouTube about the event. It is titled, "Historians identify Civil War Veteran in unmarked grave, give him military headstone 115 years later." The county online newspaper, OrleansHub.com, published a story titled, "Civil War soldier gets headstone more than a century after death at 'Poor House'". Images of brother Schwarzmüller with Miss Peruzzini and Miss McCormick, and of brother Mergler participating in the volleys, may be viewed online on the OrleansHub.com website.



Lilly Camp #66-



The Sgt. William C. Lilly Camp #66 was chartered on May 16, 2024 with the help of our Camp Organizer, Brother Jeff French, PDC, and our current New York Department Commander. We are forever thankful for Commander French's support and guidance.

On May 17, 2025, we held our camp meeting at the American Legion James Harvey Spire Post 787 Cicero, NY. We greatly appreciate Post 787's support with meeting space. At that meeting, we celebrated our camp's 1 year anniversary with cake and refreshments, and we acquired 4 more charter member signatures on the back of our camp's charter, so two more signatures to go to complete the tradition. Also, Brother David Neiss, PCC #146, brought in a Union Civil War

uniform, and Brother Luke Harrington tried it on for a perfect fit. Our camp also had a guest, Andrew Miledonis, who applied for hereditary membership via his GGG-Grandfather, Loren H. Hare, Private, Co. B, 16th U.S. Infantry. Hare rests in Peck's Cemetery, Oswego, NY. Brother Andrew's application has been accepted and approved by our camp's membership.



Andrew Miledonis

The following week, our social media presence on Facebook reached 100 Followers on Memorial Day. We greatly appreciate our Followers and others who

enjoy, Like, Share and Comment on our American Civil War themed content. Our followers help our camp increase our social media presence, improve our visibility, and gain new members to help us better perform the work of the order, that is, to preserve the history and legacy of the heroes who fought to save the Union during the American Civil War.



Luke Harrington

Two of our camp's members, Commander Bob Harrington, and Brother Phurriott Henry, Camp Secretary/Treasurer and Camp GRO, will participate in a headstone cleaning workshop lead by "Gone Graving" at the Maple Grove Cemetery, Jordan, NY. Our small camp continues to make forward progress.

Respectfully
Brother Phurriott Henry
Secretary/Treasurer, Camp GRO
Sgt. William C. Lilly, Camp #66
Syracuse, NY
Council, SUVCW New York Dept.
 In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty

The Memorials and Monuments Committee has \$750.00 grants available. Applications may be found on the Department Website and must be submitted between June 1 and February 28 of each year.

Lincoln Camp at Mt. Hope



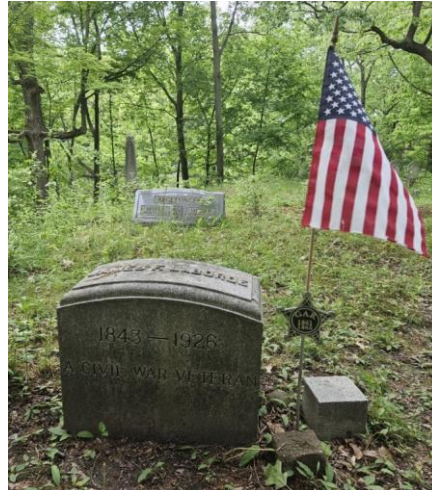
Bro's Chuck Smeltzer and Anton Schwarzmueeller

19 G.A.R. flag holders were emplaced by Abraham Lincoln Camp 6 in Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester on 17 May and 2 June 2025. "Property of Lincoln Camp 6, SUVCW.org" was written with a fine white paint pen on the back of each G.A.R. star. The camp provided ten of the flag holders, while the Department of Massachusetts provided nine for veterans of Massachusetts units interred throughout the cemetery. Many hundreds of Civil War veterans' graves in Mount Hope cemetery lack flag holders.

Brothers Darin Everdyke PDC, Anton Schwarzmueeller CC, Sec./Treas. Nathan Tompson, and Charles Smeltzer, PCC, placed the flag holders. It took several hours on the first visit to the cemetery and more hours on the second visit. Brother Schwarzmueeller checked the placements

from the first day to re-tighten the poles threaded into the G.A.R. stars.

Initially failing to find the grave of James Laborde – 8th MA Infantry Militia - in May, brother Schwarzmueeller returned with a plot map in June and still could not find the grave. Luckily, a cemetery volunteer acquainted with fellow volunteer brother Everdyke happened to be nearby and volunteered to help. He was able to locate the grave. It was at an edge of a bluff, at the very end of a path through a ridge.



Two veterans that Lincoln Camp flagged were 1st Lieutenant Charles P. Klein of the 140th NY Infantry, Company I, and Armory Webber of the 6th Massachusetts Infantry Militia, the 3rd Massachusetts Cavalry, and the 9th Veterans Reserve Corps.



Lieutenant Klein enlisted at Rochester on 30 August 1862. He was promoted from 2nd Lieutenant in March 1863. Wounded 2 July 1863 at Gettysburg, he died of wounds on 17 July at Baltimore, aged 20 years. His remains were brought home.



Amory Webber was an orderly to General Benjamin F. Butler in Louisiana, during which time he was wounded. He was present in Ford's Theater on the occasion of the assassination of Lincoln.

Ellis Camp on Memorial Day-



Eleven members of the Colonel Augustus Van Horne Ellis Camp # 124 SUCVW held their annual Memorial Day observance in Goshen, New York at the bronze monument known as the “Standard Bearer” dedicated to the 248-war dead of the camp’s namesake regiment the 124th New York State Volunteers. The regiment itself was formed in Goshen, New York where it left for the war in September of 1862. The monument was erected through the generosity of Thomas Bradley, a congressman from the then 20th New York Congressional district

and a Medal of Honor recipient from the 124th for his actions during the Battle of Chancellorsville. The bronze statue depicts a color sergeant marching down Main street towards the then train station from which the 124th was transported to Washington, D.C. The train station is now the Village Police Station.

The monument was designed by the noted female sculptress Theo Alice Ruggles Kitson. She is primarily known for designing 73 sculptures now located with the Vicksburg Military Park.

The ceremony was held by the camp and presided by Camp Commander Paul Ellis-Graham PDC mirrored the traditional Memorial Day Ceremony of the SUCVW ritual book.

Preceding the ceremony a tour of notable Civil War related grave sites was held in the nearby Slate Hill Cemetery in Goshen conducted by Camp Secretary Jeffrey Albanese, PDC.

Graves visited included Anna Dickinson, known as the “Joan of Arc” of the Civil War for her promotion of the Union. She was a noted orator and lecturer and advocate for the abolition of slavery and for women’s rights. In 1864 she was the first woman to give a political speech before the United States Congress where she received a standing ovation.

Brevet Brigadier General Henry Lawrence Burnett. An attorney he initially was a major in the 2nd Ohio cavalry. He was

seriously injured in an accident and was transferred to the Judge Advocate Corps of the Department of Ohio. After the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, he was called upon by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton to be an Assistant Judge Advocate along with John Bingham and Joseph Holt to prosecute the Lincoln Assassination Conspirators. In 1898 he was appointed US Attorney for the Southern District of New York by President William McKinley and subsequently reappointed by President Theodore Roosevelt. A resident of New York City he had a summer home in Goshen, New York where he raised and raced horses.

Colonel Alexander Wilkin. Colonel Wilkin was born and grew up in Goshen. He was the son and grandson of politicians who served in Congress. He studied law at Yale and in 1847 he joined the Tenth United States Army and served in the Mexican War. After the war he moved to the Minnesota Territory. Several years later he was appointed by President Millard Fillmore as Territorial Secretary of the Minnesota Territory. When Minnesota became a state, he worked as an attorney and as an insurance agent. When the Civil War began, he formed Company A of the First Minnesota and fought at First Bull Run. He became a major in the 2nd Minnesota and in December 1862 he was elected Colonel of the 9th Minnesota. As Colonel he presided over the execution of 38 Dakota men in

Mankato, Minnesota. The largest mass execution in the United States. On July 14, 1864, serving as a brigade commander he was killed at the Battle of Tupelo, Mississippi the highest-ranking officer from the State of Minnesota to be killed in the Civil War. At the time of his death, he was the President of the St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company which he founded, and which today is known as Travelers Insurance.

Colonel Francis Markoe Cummins. A New York native he was a Lieutenant Colonel in the 6th Iowa at the battle of Shiloh. After the battle he was court-martialed for drunkenness and being unfit for duty and dismissed. Heading back to New York he received another commission as a lieutenant Colonel in the 124th New York Volunteers. He took over the command of the unit at Gettysburg when Colonel Ellis of the 124th New York was killed and where Cummins was wounded. He led the unit during the Mine Run Campaign and was seriously wounded at the Battle of the Wilderness, which wounds would lead to his disability and honorable discharge.

Moses A. Baldwin Camp #544 Camp Dedicates Nine New Headstones in Greenfield Cemetery

The skies threatened on the morning of June 7 but only a light mist followed so the Camp was able to dedicate new Veterans Administration headstones for these nine Civil War veterans:

- Freeman Mahan, Sgt., Co. C, 102 NY Infantry, Seaford
- Henderson McClain, Cook, Co. D, 90 NY Infantry, Village of Hempstead
- Dr. Samuel S. Field, Cpl., Co. H, 134 NY Infantry, Village of Hempstead
- George Wattis, Cpl., Co. H 6 Pennsylvania Cavalry, Rockville Centre
- Alphonse De La Flechelle, Pvt., Co. G, 8 US Infantry, Hempstead
- Tredwell Bedell, Pvt. Co. H, 119 NY Infantry, Town of Hempstead, Killed in Action
- Ira Hulse, Pvt., Co. I, 90 NY Infantry, Hempstead
- Thomas Smith, 1Lt., Co C, 2 NY Cavalry, Village of Hempstead
- Thomas Barker, Pvt., Co. E, 4 NY Heavy Artillery, Bellmore

All had been in unmarked graves except Henderson McClain whose stone was broken and displaced. David Hart gggrandnephew of Treadwell Bedell and

now a member of our Camp, was present along with Linda Powell and her son Dr. Samuel G. H. Powell, descendants of Henderson McClain who had been a slave in Louisiana but joined the 90th New York Infantry when it was sent there and at War's end came to New York with the returning 90th.

Thanks to friend of the Camp Robert Leimbach who applied his genealogical skills to locate these descendants. Treadwell Bedell is the only one of the nine to die in service - being killed in action at Pine Knob, Georgia during Sherman's march to the sea, and buried on the battlefield. His stone here is a cenotaph. The other eight represent actual burials.

Town of Hempstead Deputy Supervisor Dorothy Goosby and Village of Hempstead Mayor Waylyn Hobbs attended, as well as Scouts from Mineola's Troop 45..

The Uniondale High School Jr. ROTC led by Senior Army Instructor Major Anthony Telesca provided the color guard, Toniann Butler from Lynbrook sang the National Anthem, Town Clerk Kate Murray spoke inspiring, Commander Don McMahon read the Grand Army of the Republic Ritual, Chaplain John Shaud read the prayers. Bill Carman, Scott McKendrick, Fred Kuntz, and Matt Bursig comprised the rifle detail which fired the three military volleys and *Taps* concluded the ceremony.

Commented [DD1]:

Certificates of appreciation were presented to Wayne Haddock and Phil Aguece who collaborated on locating the graves and assembling the paperwork required to permit the Veterans Administration to provide the stones and to the members of the Uniondale Jr. ROTC, Cadets Reyna Bermudez, Wellington Pierre, Anderson Pineda, and Kevin Velasquez.

Throughout all, the veteran-friendly Town of Hempstead, which operates Greenfield Cemetery, and the Cemetery staff were incredibly supportive, accepting delivery of and setting the stones, providing cover in case it rained and a sound system. Photos and videos of the event are on the camp website under PHOTOS. Here's the link:

<https://sites.google.com/site/mosesabaldwin/photos>

Click on the Sons logo to see the videos. There are two as ceremonies were conducted at two of the graves, McClain's and Bedell's.

Graves Registration/Headstone Project at Ithaca City Cemetery a Collaboration

Bro. Dave Greiner of the Moses A. Baldwin Camp #544 researched a Memorial Day "flagging list" for Ithaca City Cemetery provided by Danny Wheeler, PCinC, Commander, Sidney Camp #41. Dave's research permitted him to add almost 150 graves to the SUVCW Graves Database. In addition, Dave identified 16 Graves which might have no headstone or perhaps the stone needs resetting.

Being on Long Island, nowhere near the cemetery, Dave enlisted the help of an organization named Historic Ithaca to check the actual gravesites. So far, they've checked half and verified that seven need headstones and one has a stone which needs resetting. Historic Ithaca plans to check the others in August. Dave will find proof of service for those needing stones and copy proof of interment from the City of Ithaca's online burial records and apply to the Veterans Administration for the stones.

The plan is to have the stones in place well before the 2026 Department Encampment so a dedication ceremony can be conducted in conjunction with the Encampment.

Passings-

At the Encampment in April, it was noted that many of the Brothers and Sisters who had left us in the past year had not been mentioned in this newsletter.

In order to rectify that, the complete list of names read at the memorial service is included here;

Gary F Chapin – Catlin Camp
Walter James Gable – Caywood Camp
Ben Gardiner – Ireland Camp
Thomas Griffin-- Baldwin Camp
John Kryger—Ellis Camp
Francis Rogler- Willard Camp
Arthur Young- Willard Camp
Coradean Simon- Strickland Tent
Marilyn Dirk- Strickland Tent
Loretta Cloherty- Strickland Tent
Clara Larsen- PNP
Roena Bayes- PNP
Donna Wood- PNP

Peter Braell



Peter was born on August 15, 1957, the middle child of Dr. and Mrs. William and Barbara Braell. He grew up in Palmyra and was an avid Boy Scout who enjoyed hunting for fossils, shells, butterflies, and rocks. Peter graduated from Palmyra-Macedon High School in 1975. He received his BS in Biology from SUNY Albany and his MS and PhD in Food Science & Technology from Cornell University. He married his beloved wife, Judy, in 1983. Over the years, Peter worked at the Geneva

Experiment Station, PepsiCo, Bausch & Lomb (receiving a Distinguished Award of Excellence in Research & Development), and Medeva Pharmaceuticals/CellTech. In 2007, Peter was diagnosed with polycythemia vera, a debilitating bone marrow disorder. For years, he juggled doctor and phlebotomy appointments while being a talented family cook, keeping up with home repairs, watching PBS, and reading *The Economist*. Peter loved spending time at home with his family and cats, and especially looked forward to breakfasts of blueberry pancakes, homemade clove bread, and coffee.

Peter was a lifelong Tolkien fan who could quote long passages of *The Lord of the Rings* by heart. He loved learning about wildlife, marine biology, and deep-sea exploration. He liked action movies, lousy puns, and classic Seventies rock music. Peter enjoyed local history and was a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Pilgrim Edward Doty Society. After an eighteen year struggle with polycythemia vera, Peter was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) in February of 2025 and died six weeks later at Strong Memorial Hospital. Peter's family would like to thank his entire care team at Wilmot Cancer Center for providing excellent care for the duration of his illness.

Peter is survived by his wife Judy Braell of Palmyra; children Kristina (Kyle Beach) Braell of Marion, and Anthony Braell of Palmyra; siblings, Dr. William Braell of Newark, Teresa Braell of Penfield, Michael Braell of Palmyra, and Victoria (Steven) Rolfe of Cortland; niece Christine (Jacob) Riddle; nephew Braeden Rolfe, and many cousins and good friends.

Peter was predeceased by his middle child, Nicholas, who died of acute lymphocytic leukemia in 1994, and parents William and Barbara Braell.

Peter was laid to rest in Macedon Village Cemetery on Friday (May 2). To leave the family an online condolence, please visit Peter's tribute wall www.murphyfuneralservices.com.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Wayne County Humane Society. Bake an apple pie for your family. Plant for pollinators. Protect the ocean.

"All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us." - J.R.R. Tolkien.



Department of New York

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

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PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR- Douglas Brenner
PCC



143rd NY Department Encampment -

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

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR– Darin Everdyke PDC

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