



4th Quarter 2025

# THE VOLUNTEER

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

## **Theresa, NY Memorial Ceremony**

The 16 August 2025 Memorial Ceremony by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) Walter H French Camp #17, the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War Julia Hibbard Tent #71, and the American Legion Philadelphia Post 798 and Antwerp Post 916 were only a small part of the grand recognition of the Civil War Veterans planned by Theresa Historian Tim Minnick and SUVCW member Kris Haskins.

The ceremony drew a large crowd to observe and participate in the events scheduled. It started off with Tim Minnick, the Town Historian, welcoming everyone who attended and thanking the Sons, Daughters, the American Legion the Author Peter Kissel and the French Camp's youngest member Levi Haskins playing

TAPS. The Walter H French Camp then proceeded to conduct the Memorial Ceremony by Jeff French, NY Department Commander and Sam Lundy Camp Chaplain with guest Speaker Tim Minnick talking about Douglas Lucas and Peter about the civil war statue. Daughters Evelyn Adkinson, Dorothy Prentice, Rita Barker, and Dally Goloski recited a poem and a memoriam ritual. Smoke filled the air from the firing of the civil war era muskets - three volleys by Brothers Bill Bamann, James Goloski, and Kris Haskins. Quickly followed by Levi Haskins playing TAPS.

Troy Decker, Superintendent of Indian River Central School, spoke about the legend of the Schule Bell captured from the Confederates during the civil war and brought to Theresa NY. Very interesting history for a small town. Tim Minnick gave a guided tour of civil war graves and



informed the public a synopsis story of each veteran.

It was an action-packed day that was thoughtfully planned out by Tim Minnick, Theresa Town Historian and Kris Haskins, member of Walter H French Camp #17 SUVCW. It was an outstanding event to had by all.

If you have an ancestor who served in the Civil War and interested in joining the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Contact Jeffrey French at [ffrenchej@aol.com](mailto:ffrenchej@aol.com)



## **Expansion of NYS Military Museum Approved**

The just-passed New York State budget includes \$15,000,000 for an expansion of the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs. This will permit a two story addition of 7,500 square feet per floor for a total of about 15,000 square feet on land already part of the museum's property and immediately to the east of the building. One storey will be below grade and the library will move here- thus freeing up the existing library for additional storage for the museum's collection including its battle flags, the great majority of which are from the Civil War. The above ground level will hold an expanded conference center which now occupies part of the drill floor thus freeing that space for exhibits primarily covering the conflicts in the mid-east.

As we know, the museum was running out of space for the battle flags as the conservation process produces a flag in a frame on acid free cloth which takes up a lot more space than a flag tightly furled on its staff. This great news should encourage all brothers in the Department of New York to redouble their efforts to raise money to fund the battle flags conservation effort in conjunction with our partner in this, the Friends of the New York State Military Museum, like us, a 501 (c) 3 organization.

## **Westchester County Delegation New York State Senate Budget Forum**

**February 6, 2025**

### **Testimony of Dennis J. Duffy**

Senators, thank you for this opportunity to provide input to the budget process.

1. The American Legion operates a program known as Boys State which brings high school juniors, each sponsored by a Legion Post, from all over New York, together at Morrisville State University for a week in the Summer to learn how our government works by forming a government. These "citizens" perform duties as an elected or appointed official, participate in the caucuses and conventions of mythical parties, develop platforms, propose legislation, operate courts, etc. They do all things that you do. Until a few years ago New York State supported this program with an annual grant of \$150,000. Please restore this annual grant. And yes, there is a Girls State operated by the Legion Auxiliary.

2. At the end of America's tragic Civil War New York State ordered its disbanding regiments to bring to Albany their Battle Flags, under which many had died, remarking that only the State had the means,



in the words of Major General Daniel Butterfield to preserve this “priceless legacy” and exploit its great educational value. In fact, they were furlled on their staffs and left to slowly deteriorate until 2000 when the State budgeted \$100,000 a year for conservation. State funding stopped in 2010. Since then, private donations have permitted the conservation of about 3-4 flags a year. There are hundreds to be conserved. Please restore the \$100,000 a year.

3. Conserved flags, placed on acid free fabric in a frame, take up a lot more space than a flag furlled on its staff. The museum has run out of space and needs a supplementary, climate controlled facility of about 10,000 square feet. Please find such a space in an existing State facility or build it.

Thank you,

Dennis J. Duffy, Long Island Legionnaire of the Year 2024-2025

One Garden Drive, Lynbrook, NY 11563  
[duffy99999@aol.com](mailto:duffy99999@aol.com) 516-593-0198



**Nicolas Guepe and Charles Lamphere  
Headstone Dedication Ceremony**

June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 was a nice sunny day. The Walter H French Camp #17, Lowville VFW, and the Marine Corps League gathered to conduct a headstone Dedication Ceremony for Nicholas Guepe and Charles Lamphere at Lowville Rural Cemetery. As they were preparing for the event, the descendants of Nicolas Guepe arrived and interacted with the group doing the ceremony.

Nicolas Guepe descendants Andy Gray, Thomas Gray, Jonathan Guepe, Ashley Roshia, Robert Roshia III, Vivian Roshia, and Blake Moore were present for the ceremony along with Scott Gray whose wife Barbara was a descendant as well. Scott Gray initiated the process to acquire the new

headstone. After the brief meet and greet the ceremony was now ready to start.

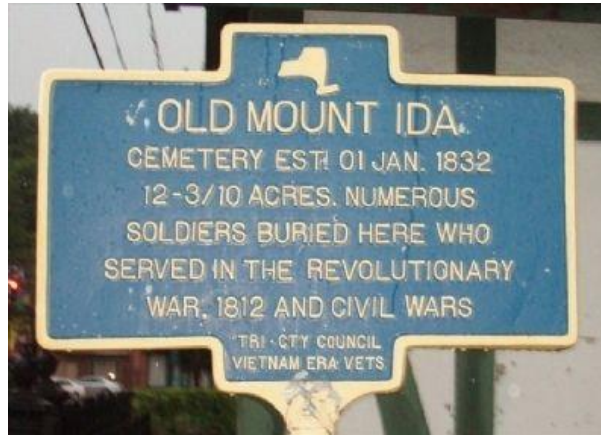
New York Department Commander Jeff French welcome the descendants and public for attending this dedication ceremony and introduced them to everyone. Descendants Scott Gray, Thomas Gray, and Jonathan Guepe came up and informed the guests about their ancestor. They provided a good synopsis of Nicolas. Walter H French Camp #17 Camp Commander Gary Hays III officiated the ceremony. Chaplain Samuel Lundy did the invocation and blessings. The Camp Commander placed a wreath on the grave, followed by Doroty Prentice and Evelyn Putnam Adkinson from the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War placing a wreath on the grave, followed by Hope Parker from the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War placing the flowers on the grave.

Standing tall were the Color Guards - comprised of the Lowville Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6912, Walter H French Camp #17, and the Marine Corps League 754. Now the firing team comprised of the French Camp Members James Goloski, Alex Rodriguez, Blake Moore (descendant of Nicolas Guepe), Scott French, and Kris Haskins. The three volleys fired thunderously and smoke filled the air. French Camp member Robert Roshia III (descendant of Nicolas Guepe) took the bugle and played TAPS. The tune echoed in the cemetery as to let everyone know that

our fallen veterans was being acknowledged. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the descendants and public thanked the detail for honoring their descendant.

The descendants departed for a well-deserved family reunion and the Daughters, Auxiliary, and Sons went to Jeb's for lunch and fellowship. The VFW and Marine Corps League departed for a funeral of a fallen brother. It was a great day.

I also want to thank Rick S. Allen from the Lowville VFW 6912 who brought a brother and two members of the Lowville Marine Corps League 754. It shows the fraternity of the Veterans groups to honor our veterans, Lest We Forget!



### ***Wrap up of the Mt. Ida Conservation Project***

On May 2, 2025 Grave Stone Matters started 14 days of monument preservation in the Old Mount Ida Cemetery on Pawling Ave. as part of the ARPA Mt. Ida Cemeteries Preservation Project. Thirty-nine monuments were preserved. This was the final monument repair session and there will be no further project expenditures under the current grant.

On Sunday, May 18th at 11am in the Old Mount Ida Cemetery, the Mount Ida Cemeteries ARPA project hosted a public event to mark the completion of the project. Project manager Cameron Smith provided an overview of the overall effort. Troy Mayor Carmella Mantello discussed ARPA and the importance of greenspace within the City.

Afterwards, Don Rittner and Christopher Philipppo gave a brief presentation on the history of Troy and the Mount Ida Cemeteries, respectively. Joe Ferannini of Grave Stone Matters gave an overview of monument preservation.

The Colonel George L. Willard Camp #154 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Color Guard opened and closed the event to honor the service of our Armed Forces and the many veterans interred in the Mt. Ida Cemeteries.



-Image- Contribution by Cameron Smith

***(Article Courtesy of Willard Camp "Guidon")***



## ***Baldwin Camp Purchases Markers-***



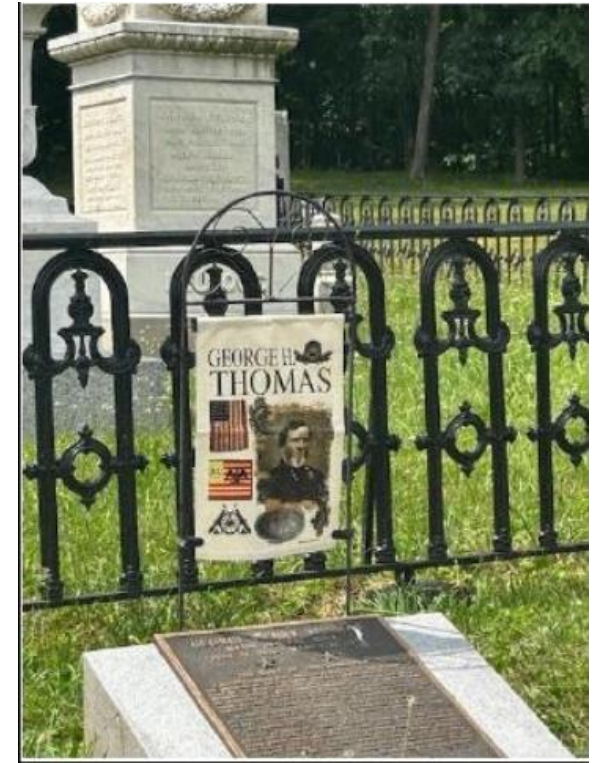
The Baldwin Camp will Purchase 500 Aluminum G.A.R. flag holders as part of its long-term plan to honor every Civil War veteran buried in Nassau County. These Made in America markers will be supplied by Temple Aluminum Foundry of Blandon, PA at a cost of \$12 each plus \$220 shipping for the entire order. Delivery is expected in late September or early October. While thermoplastic markers were available at about half the price, the Camp chose the more durable aluminum design. The first placements are expected at Greenfield Cemetery, where, thanks to the work of Brothers Wayne Haddock and Phil Aguece, our count now shows 192 Union Civil War veterans buried. Currently, the SUVCW Graves Database holds records for just over 500 Civil War veterans in Nassau County, but we expect this number to double as research continues cemetery by cemetery. If you would like to be part of this project, please contact our Graves Registration Officer, Dennis Duffy.

## ***Commack Headstone Dedications – July 19, 2025***



Two Civil War veterans, Warren Ketcham and William Nichols, were honored with new headstones. Bro. Bruce Weidenburner sang the National Anthem; historic reenactors fired volleys; and Rev. Roslyn Lee welcomed attendees and offered prayers. Pastor Lee later toured the group through her 1789 church, the oldest Methodist congregation in NY. Special thanks went to Kevin Duffy, Paul Farinella, Norm Eriksen, and Wayne Haddock for research, placement, and arrangements.

## ***New Mini-Banner Emplaced at the General Thomas Plot***



***(Courtesy of Willard Camp "Guidon")***

The old and faded banner that was displayed at the General Thomas plot was replaced in July, 2025. That banner was exposed to the elements from the Spring to the Fall for two

years (2023-2024). A new banner was ordered from Ebay but due to a shipping error by the carrier the item was reported missing. The vendor quickly refunded the money but a couple days later the banner showed up. The vendor, known as "The Confederate Yankee Emporium," declined re-payment. Essentially, he donated the flag. As a return favor we should look at his wares and support him for his generosity. He has a variety of banners, shirts, hats, mugs and pillows with Union and Confederate units and personalities. Worth a look.



## *Presentation in Bethpage*



Today, MAB Camp Commander Don McMahon and Brothers McKendrick, Haddock and Phillips met with Mr. Gus Tsiorvas of the Embassy Diner, Bethpage, NY and presented him with a Certificate to recognize the Patriotic Flag display. The attachments provide pictures of the display, the participants and I have included a copy of the letter accompanying the presentation of the framed certificate.

August 29, 2025  
Mr. Gus Tsiorvas,  
Embassy Diner,  
Bethpage, NY.

On behalf of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is my distinct honor and privilege to extend heartfelt congratulations to you for your Patriotic Flag Display at the Embassy Diner, Bethpage, NY. This public display of our national colors is a powerful and unifying tribute to our shared values and the

sacrifices of those who have served our country.

Our organization is deeply rooted in the legacy of those who bravely served during one of the most pivotal periods in our nation's history. We recognize and commend the significance of your accomplishment. Just as the Union soldiers demonstrated courage, integrity, and leadership in the face of adversity, you have exemplified these same qualities throughout your scouting journey, culminating in the attainment of this remarkable achievement. May you continue to lead by example, to serve with humility, and to strive for excellence in all that you do. And may the spirit of the Union soldiers, whose legacy we honor and preserve, guide, and inspire you as you embark on the next phase of your journey.

Once again, congratulations on this momentous achievement you have made a difference in the world!

In memory of the Boys in Blue,  
Ted Phillips,  
Junior Vice Commander, SUVCW  
Department of New York  
tephillips@gmail.com 516-448-0233  
Donald T. McMahon  
Camp Commander, Moses A Baldwin  
Camp #544, Hempstead, NY  
<https://sites.google.com/site/mosesabaldwin>

<https://www.embassydiner.com/>



*Dear friends of the Greenpoint  
Monitor Museum.*

*We need your help!*



Hope all is well with everyone.

Summer went by so fast. Been busy setting up our school program and coordinating with the developers who are working with the MTA on the development of the MTA site which is adjacent to the Museum's land.

The 2005 rezoning changed the zoning for the MTA site to R6 residential. So, now the MTA is able to go forward to build an R6 residential development on the MTA site "as of right".

The MTA is now applying through a ULURP process to upzone the site from R6 to R8 which will allow the development to be built higher. The R8 zoning will include additional benefits which would not be included if the project is built "as of right" R6.

Examples of additional benefits would include affordable housing, additional open space, a purchase of the Museum's air rights to be applied toward a **Museum building on its own land**, etc.

The project is called Monitor Point. Please forward the link to the petition and the two flier attachments to family members, friends, organization members you work with who would be in support of the project.

If you have any questions please let me know.

Thank you as always.

George J. Weinmann  
Vice President  
The Greenpoint Monitor Museum

<https://win.newmode.net/monitorpoint/support>

*Etcetera –*



*Jerry Orton rubbing Col. O'Rourke's nose on Little Round Top, Gettysburg*



*The older members of the 148th NYSV at Gettysburg this past Saturday (9/20)*

***Passings-*** None reported

## ***Calendar –***

Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> 11:00am Headstone  
Dedication, Saint Ann's Cemetery, 23  
Foster Ave, Sayville, NY

Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. SUVCW  
ZOOM mid-Year Meeting.

Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> - Daughters, Sons,  
and Auxiliary are invited to a Harvest  
Dinner by DUVCW Tent #56. [Immanuel  
United Church of Christ](#) 1973 Ridge Rd,  
Ontario, NY 14519 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Please RSVP to Susan Berardi, 585-230-  
1910 or [srdb7092@gmail.com](mailto:srdb7092@gmail.com).

Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. Presentation and  
book signing put on by the Ellis Camp  
#124, SUVCW, at St. James Church Hall in  
Goshen, N.Y. concerning a recent  
biography co-authored by Dr. Robert L.  
Worden concerning Admiral John Lorimer  
Worden the first commander of the USS  
Monitor. The presentation will be open to  
the public. Dr. Worden is a current member  
of the Oliver Tilden Camp.





## Department of New York

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

**DEP'T COMMANDER – Jeff French**

**SR. VICE – Anton Schwarzmüller**

**JR. VICE COMMANDER- Ted Phillips**

**SECRETARY- Robert L. Pugsley PDC**

**TREASURER- Jeffrey Albanese PDC**

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

**COUNCIL- Robert Dauchy, Phurriott Henry,  
Brian Castler PDC**

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

**PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR- Douglas Brenner  
PCC**



4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2025

## THEVOLUNTEER

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

*144th NY Department Encampment -*

April 10-12 in Ithaca at the Cornell University



**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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