



2nd Quarter 2026

THE VOLUNTEER

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

Encampment News-

There had been a headstone dedication ceremony planned for 8 Veterans for the Sunday of the encampment. However, the stones will be arriving too late to be set in time for the Encampment. A ceremony will be announced when they are ready.

Greetings Brothers from the Department Secretary

This is the time of year when things are really hopping in the Department. First, we have the Encampment coming up at Cornell University April 10-12. If you plan on attending, please send in your

registration. Of course, you can come anytime. You do not have to pre-register. Look for all the details on the Department website. Do not forget, if your fiscal year end on 12/31 you must file your 990N by May 15. Nov 15 if your year ends 6/30. We have added many new members. Let's welcome the following new Brothers since the last Newsletter:

Oliver Tilden Camp # 26
George Dunston
Sgt William C Lilly Camp #66
John Dunn, David Hinds, Edward Clements
Sgt Judson Hicks Camp #111
Christen Barton, Tyler Maybe
Col Augustus Van Horne Ellis Camp 124
Daniel Myers III
Provisional Osbon Camp #150

William Stump
Col. George Willard Camp # 154
Gordon Thompson
Phineas Catlin Camp # 341
Edwin Arnold
Moses Baldwin Camp #544
William Barto, James Bogle, Robert Bogle,
Walter H French Camp #17, Alexander Walts, Levi Haskins, and James Gregory

Sadly, we have lost four members since the last newsletter
Oliver Tilden Camp #26
Robert McKay
Sgt Judson Hicks Camp #111
Harold Cheetham
Schuyler Smith Camp #193
Ryan Bunce
Phineas Catlin Camp #341
Silas Ferguson

We currently have 474 Members including
Duals 417 Members, 46 Associates, 11
Juniors and 64 Life Members

Just a reminder that your Form 22,
Certification of Elections should already
have been submitted. The Form 27, Annual
Camp Report is due to me by April 30 along
with your roster and per-Capita check.

Yours in F, C, and L,

Bob Pugsley, PDC
NY Department Secretary, SUVCW



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

**COMMUNICATION NOTICE
#2025/6-4**

Honoring the memory of the Grand Army
Of the Republic and the Men from New
York who saved the Union 1861- The New
York DEPARTMENT JAMES GORDON
BENNETT JR AWARD

The Department of New York appreciates
the hard work of Brother William Stump
and Brother Axel Ravera on developing and
obtaining the James Gordon Bennett Jr
Award.

The Medal is now available to those who
Donate \$500 or more as stated in our
Department Bylaws: “The James Gordon
Bennett Jr. Award, a medal, is presented
to the brothers of the Order who donated at
least \$500 to the Department of New
York in a year measured by the last day of
the last encampment and the first day of
the following encampment. All living past
awardees will be recognized yearly at
the Department Encampment with the
singing of “Drunken Sailor” by the
assembled brothers before the awarding of
each year’s recipients.”

Looking forward to the first presentation at
the Department Encampment on 11 April
2026. Below is a picture of the award.



THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Monday May 25th, 2026

Constitution Avenue, Washington D.C.

Greetings Members of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic, family & friends. Please join your brothers and sisters at this year's National Memorial Day Parade. President Abraham Lincoln, the 46th PA Brass Band, Generals Grant, Meade, and Sheridan will lead the SVR Color Guard, SUVCW and an allied procession of civilian and uniformed participants.

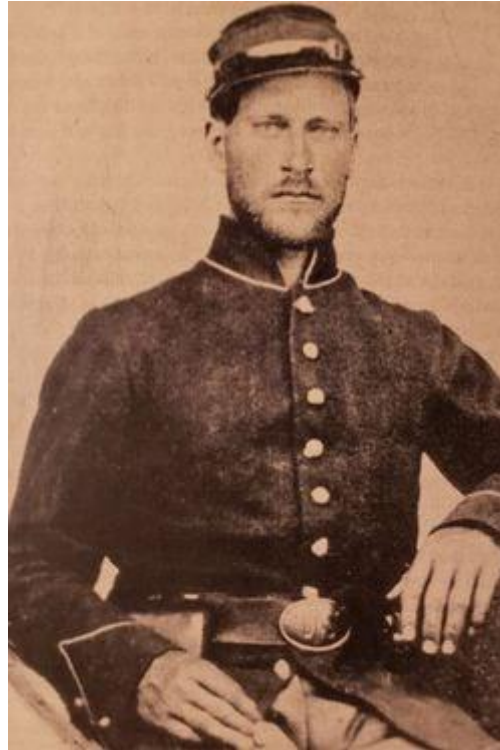
BACKGROUND: The parade is sponsored by the American Veteran's Center (AVC) and organized by Under the Sun Productions (USP) Inc. The Irish Brigade Camp #4, Department of the Chesapeake and its SVR counterpart, the Irish Rifles, 2nd Military District, together with the Lincoln Cushing Camp and the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War have made the National Memorial Day Parade an annual event for many years. We are honored to welcome a national level participant contingent to this year's event as part of the America 250th celebrations.

WEBSITE:

<https://americanveteranscenter.org/avc-events/parade/>

WHEN: Parade will start at 2:00 PM, Monday, May 25, 2026. The parade ends at 4:30 PM. We are usually nearer the front of the parade so we will likely finish earlier.

True Valor at Gettysburg



By George McGraw (edited 12-8-25) (edit D. Hall 2-14-2026)

Hello Brothers,

My name is George McGraw. My interest in the Civil War began in a sudden but unique way, in 1970, shortly after my grandfather passed away. While cleaning out his home in Williamson, New York, I discovered a

box of Civil War memorabilia that belonged to my great-grandfather, Private Isaac Mullie, that no one in my family knew about. We didn't even know that he had served in the War of the Rebellion. My grandfather never mentioned his father's military service to his daughter (my mother) or to any of us grandchildren. Coincidentally, I discovered this remarkable find just as I was preparing to leave for my own military service as a draftee. With no time to examine it, I packed everything into a box and left it behind as I headed to Fort Dix for basic training.

Fifty years passed like a flash with my own honorable discharge, a career move to Texas, raising a family, and eventually retiring before I finally returned to that box and began researching Isaac's service with Company D of the 111th New York Volunteer Infantry. The more I learned, the deeper I was drawn in. Isaac immigrated from Holland in 1851 and just eleven years later, enlisted to fight for the reunification of his adopted nation. His story, which was unfortunately plagued with illness, a shoulder mini-ball wound and numerous hospital stays, inspired me to become an amateur Civil War researcher.

My research soon led me to the Wayne County Historical Society (WCHS), where several staff, board members, volunteer historians and I began searching for other

descendants of Company D soldiers. The data that has been collected is being formatted into a searchable and expanding database of 111th soldiers as well as other Wayne County soldiers from various regiments and eras.

I soon began expounding on my research by writing articles for the Times of Wayne County, a weekly newspaper, about the men of the 111th and their contributions to saving the Union. These articles are slowly being added to the Historical Society website News section under the pen name McGraw Siblings which includes my sister as coeditor. We have written over 90 articles that tell the story of the 111th along with more in-depth stories of the regiment's soldiers and even in some cases, their own Revolutionary War ancestors.

www.waynehistory.org/articles/categories/military-memories

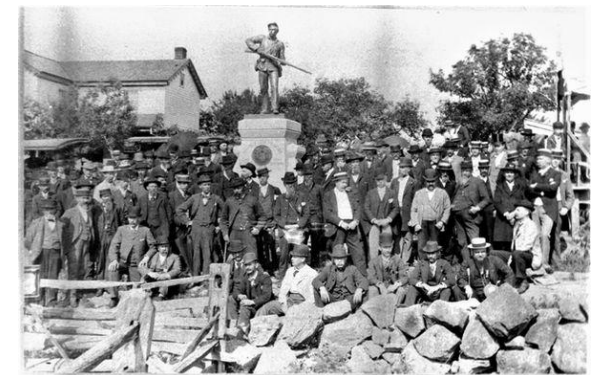
It was on a visit to Gettysburg in 2021 when I was deeply influenced to embark on a larger project. Standing on the fields where the 111th fought, seeing all the monuments and then experiencing the exhibits in the Gettysburg Battlefield Museum, I felt strongly that the people of Wayne County deserved a monument honoring their local men who fought during these significant days of battle in July 1863.

Much has been written about the 111th at Gettysburg, but one passage moved me more than any other. In 1886 at a 111th Reunion in Gettysburg, Regimental Chaplain John N. Brown delivered a speech in which he stated, *"I recollect that in the first charge on the 2d of July, our first color-guard fell wounded. He called for the second to take the flag and bear it onward. As he did so he was instantly killed. The third grasped it, fell mortally wounded, and the fourth seized the falling standard, and raising it aloft bore it onward to victory. Such was the honor to the brave men who could thus do and dare for their country and for the flag."*



These poignant and powerful words sparked the theme and concept of the monument that would specifically depict the men, the flag bearers, whose courage held a regiment together. My research turned to the regiment's flags and brought me to the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs which houses the original guidon of the 111th Regiment, as well as the national colors and regimental flag. All were in deteriorating condition. With the support of

the WCHS and Sgt. Judson Hicks Camp #111, we initiated and funded the flags' conservation. Replica flags have also been ordered and will be available by mid-2026 for Camp events. These flags will be on permanent display at the Museum of Wayne County History in Lyons. The Hicks Camp has continued fundraising and is now supporting the preservation of additional New York Civil War flags. It was then fitting that I joined Camp #111 named for Sergeant Judson Hicks because he was the first color bearer to fall on July 2, 1863.



Working with the WCHS and renowned Civil War sculptor Gary Casteel, the monument concept evolved into a full-size bronze monument that depicts that day described by Chaplain Brown, when 4 color-bearers became casualties in the battle. **True Valor at Gettysburg**, the title of the monument, contains three life-size figures: two color bearers and an infantryman. Their clay models are currently at the foundry in Louisville, Kentucky, where they are being

cast in bronze. The monument will rest on a 14-foot-diameter granite pedestal, centered on a 40-foot concrete patio in Central Park, Lyons, New York, Wayne County's seat of government.

Dedication events are planned for Friday evening, August 21, and all day Saturday, August 22, 2026 in Lyons, which will include living history encampments and demonstrations, historic organizations, period music, a soldier's parade and a full monument dedication ceremony, with nationally known speakers, and major participation from the Sgt. Judson Hicks Camp #111. There will be a welcome reception on Friday evening and a dinner reception with keynote speaker on Saturday evening.

The Wayne County Historical Society is serving as the lead organization for the project. I would encourage all interested brothers and camps to contact Deb Hall, Executive Director at 315-946-4943 or dhall@waynehistory.org regarding this once-in-a-century event. Regular updates will be posted at www.waynehistory.org/civil-war-research.

Historically Yours,
George



SAVE THE DATE
Friday & Saturday
August 21 - 22, 2026

WAYNE COUNTY
LIVING HISTORY & SUCW SGT JUDSON HICKS
CAMP #111 MONUMENT DEDICATION

Central Park Lyons, NY

FRIDAY: Plenary Reception 6pm - 8pm, Elks Lodge #869
SATURDAY: Farmer's Market Pearl St. 8am - 12pm
History Activities 10am - 5pm; Dedication 1pm
Keynote Reception 5:30pm - 9pm, Elks Lodge #869

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE Living History Groups, Individual Demonstrators, Historic Veteran Orgs and Historical Societies. Any American Soldier Reenactors or Veterans in Uniform are Welcome. Table, Tent and Site Set Up Saturday Only, 8am - 9:45am; Take Down 4:30pm - 5pm. Hotel Available. More on Monument at WayneHistory.org

ALLIED ORDERS WELCOME TO JOIN US!
INTERESTED? Contact Deb Hall
dhall@waynehistory.org



SAVE THE DATE & INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

Event Working Title: Wayne County Living History & Civil War Monument Dedication

Dates: Friday, August 21, 2026 (evening program only) to Saturday, August 22, 2026 (8am - 8pm)

Event Location: Lyons NY, Central Park, with some activities at nearby Ohmann Theatre and Elks Club.

Event Theme: An Historical Tribute and Commemoration to the early American

conflicts that shaped our Nation. There will be a Special tribute to the Union Soldiers of the 111th Infantry Regiment mustered from Wayne and Cayuga Counties in August of 1862. The event activities will include living history from 18th and 19th century soldiering, reenactors, and history camps; civic organization tables and public presentations; special lectures and programs; period music performances; parade of soldiers and bands around the park; Civil War monument dedication at the park followed by an evening reception.*
 (*Civil War Monument: **True Valor at Gettysburg**. This full-size bronze statue and granite pedestal depicts flagbearers and a rifleman engaged at Gettysburg. It represents the patriotic actions of the regiment on that day at Gettysburg.)

The dedication event will also recognize all the soldiers of Wayne County, from multiple towns and regiments who enlisted, sacrificed, and defended the preservation of the Union. In honor of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, special effort will also be made to recognize the many Revolutionary & War of 1812 veteran ancestors and those identified in local cemeteries. Special Recognition for local veterans and living descendants of these men from Wayne County.

Friday Reception* (6pm - 9pm) - Cocktails, Finger Food. Welcome, Music and Scholarly Lectures from John Lamphere

and David Malgee. (Elks Club) **Both Receptions require RSVP.*

Saturday (8am - 8pm) - Central Park (8am - 4pm); *Farmers Market* 8am - 12pm Church St. Elks Club Keynote Reception* Lecture by 111th author, Martin Husk & Buffet Dinner (5pm - 8pm) **Education & Living History Programs**

- Living History and Soldiers Encampments - Public Viewing (10am - 5pm; No Overnight)
- Civic Organizations Table Information (8am - 5pm)
- Public Participation: Family-Friendly “Community Muster: Rev War & Civil War”. The public participants can march in the Soldiers Parade. (10:30am Rev War, Civil War 1pm)
- Documentary *Killer Angels*, Jake Boritt producer. (TBD Time*) (Ohmann Theatre)
- Soldiers Parade (TBD, just prior to dedication of Monument)

Food and Concession - Community-based food vendor. Large Tent. Simple choices. Drinks. 11am set up ready at 12pm - 5pm.

Musical Entertainment:

- Civil War Songs of the Irish / American Revolution Songs - Don Dwyer (8am - 12pm)
- Excelsior Band (45 min) (Contact Jeff Stockham) 1pm - 3pm.
- Towpath Fife and Drum Corp (TBD)

Monument Dedication Ceremony (12:30pm – 1pm)

- Soldiers Parade around the Park. (15 min). American Legion Color Guard.
- Presentation of Colors. Regimental Flag. State Flag. Sgt Judson Hicks Camp #111, SUVCW
- Prayer. Reading (**June 1886 at Gettysburg. Rev. Brown letter - in costume.)
- Guest Speakers (5 min max.) – Sculptor, Historical Society, Researchers, Descendants, Dignitaries, Authors.
- Closing Words. Music. Excelsior Coronet Band

Lectures, Keynote Speakers & Receptions (Fri & Sat)

- RSVP required for these presentations, to gauge food and max capacity (\$5 at the door)
- Friday at Elks Lodge (6pm-9pm) - Welcome Reception: Cocktails & Grazing Stations, desserts and coffee/tea, Speakers, and Music
- Saturday Reception at Elks Lodge (5pm - 9pm) Buffet Dinner, Music, Keynote Speaker

Parking, Security, Accommodations

- Logistics include walkable sidewalks and nearby public parking
- Large Event Tent onsite for weather provision.

- Professional security provided on Saturday, from 8am to 5pm at the Park.

- Local overnight accommodations are available at Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham Newark NY, **Group Name: Wayne County Historical Society 2026**, Arrival Date: Friday, 21 August 2026, Departure Date: Sunday, 23 August 2026. Cutoff Date: Friday, July 31, 2026. Booking Link OR CALL 315-359-9181. <https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/microtel/newark-new-york/microtel-inn-and-suites-newark-ny/rooms-rates?&checkInDate=08/21/2026&checkOutDate=08/23/2026&groupCode=082126WAY> Use Group Code: **082126WAY**



INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE - ALL ARE WELCOME.

- **Living History Demonstrations** - Costumed encampments from French & Indian, Rev War, War of 1812 and Civil War; Other specialty demonstrations welcome such as Doctor or Musician, Artillery Specialist, Cooking Demos, etc.

- **Local Civic, Memorial, or Historic Preservation or Education Organizations** - Non-profits or historic service providers preferred.

CONFIRM YOUR PARTICIPATION: Interested Participants please **FILL OUT THIS FORM**. There you will indicate if you need any special supplies provided at the venue, or if an honorarium or travel expenses are required. Please state the number of participants and your area of specialty. We look forward to working with you and sharing local history with our community.

EVENT COORDINATOR: Deb Hall at Wayne County Historical Society and Museum dhall@waynehistory.org; cell 315-576-0415; office 315-946-4943

Monument Erection and Dedication

A new war veteran's monument will be dedicated in the Oakwood section of the Lewiston Cemetery, Village of Lewiston (Niagara County) on Sunday, May 24, at 1pm. It will honor all veterans from the Revolutionary War through the Vietnam War interred in the cemetery. All veterans groups are invited to join. Announcement by Russ Piper, Village of Lewiston Historian.

Information from the Lewiston edition of the Dispatch Tribune/Sentinel (free) 13 Mar 2026, p2; www.wnypapers.com.

Brother in the news...

Brothers of Hicks Camp and others,

The reason I am including some outside the Hicks Camp is to let you know our own Parker Maybe was featured on the Channel 8 news here in Rochester on the 11:00 news. The segment is also on the Channel 8 app in case you want to view it. It discusses his efforts on cleaning/repairing headstones in Wayne County and his you tube channel.

GoneGraving. <https://www.youtube.com/@GoneGraving> Quite remarkable.

Well done Parker.

Yours in F. C. and L,

Bob Pugsley

Emogene Horton- Real Daughter



Would you please be so kind as to send Emogene a card.

She is the last member of the Daughters of Union Veterans who can say, "My father was in the Civil War." At one time there were hundreds of thousands of real Daughters.

You can send cards to PO Box 24, Marshall, AR, 72650 or the address on the invitation.

Jerry Orton

Dear NY Department officers, members and friends of Tilden Camp:

Oliver Tilden Camp #26 extends an invitation to you from the 2026 General Grant Birthday Committee to our annual ceremony for National Park Service to commemorate the 204th Anniversary of the birth of General and President Ulysses S. Grant. The ceremony is tentatively set for Sunday, April 26, 2026, 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).

This year's program is dedicated to two Tilden Camp members, Bros. Robert N. McKay and Paul D. Borodin who recently passed away.

Suggested attire:

Kepi (if you have one)

Blue Blazer

light color or dark blue pants

We hope to see you there!!

200th Birthday Celebration for First Lady Julia Grant, wife of President Ulysses S. Grant at Grant's Tomb.



Tilden Camp #26, SUVCW thanks brother Frank Scaturro, President of the Grant Monument Association for inviting Commander George J. Weinmann, PDC for being one of the speakers for this memorable 200th Birthday celebration for First Lady Julia Grant, wife of President Ulysses S. Grant.

Tilden Camp, also thanks Captain George J. Weinmann, Corps. John Gregor and Charles Lirio, company I, 83rd New York, Volunteer Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve for being the Color Guard for the event. JVC John Gregor read a letter written by First Lady Laura Bush celebrating Julia Grant's birthday. It was a beautiful ceremony. Well done brother Frank!

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.915481264280108&type=3>

FCL,

George J. Weinmann, PDC
Commander



OUR NEW SUVCW Awards Program

Are NY State SUVCW Camps doing their part in Rewarding Deserving Cadets? That is the question I have asked myself these past two and a half years as an Associate member and JROTC awards presenter for the Moses A Baldwin Camp #544 whose AOR (Area of Responsibility) is Nassau and Suffolk County on LI; two of our 62 counties that comprise NYS.

A deserving Cadet displays a high degree of patriotism to his or her Nation and has demonstrated a high degree of Academic performance and leadership. By honoring deserving cadets, the SUVCW of NYS can help promote the maintenance of unqualified American citizenship because it will be these young people who will eventually serve in our Nation's military under the flag our forefathers fought to preserve. I have had the honor for 36 years to teach Jr-Sr HS Science in Nassau County on Long Island and serve 21 years in the NYARNG and USAR in various positions of increasing responsibility culminating during Desert Storm/Shield as Ass't DCSOPS 77th ARCOM and Chief of Unit Readiness. I retired as a LTC, USA but along the way had the opportunity to write many AAM, ARCOMs MSMs and a few LOMs for deserving soldiers who went above and beyond as so many young High School unit cadets do every day.

At the beginning of 2026, our SUVCW cadet awards program which awards a medal and certificate via our “Form 7” to a deserving cadet in an ROTC, JROTC, NCDD, USNSC, CAP and Young Marine unit changed procedure.

Instead of a requesting cadet Unit sending a Form 7 to the National Ass’t quartermaster directly via email; and later receiving a medal and certificate from him; many times without the knowledge of a participating awards presenting camp being told; a requesting unit NOW will send its Form 7 to the nearest Camp who will sponsor them; sign off on the form and send the Form 7 via email or scan to me, the new NYS Awards coordinator for all NYS Camps. I will prepare the certificate and send the medal and certificate back to the Camp medals coordinator, chosen by the Camp Commander, who will correspond with the unit about presentation and medal delivery, and if feasible send a Camp presenter to the awards ceremony. What that will do, is get the Camp Name back in the limelight for the community to become aware of, and at the awards ceremony presentation, permit the camp representative to describe the missions of what an SUVCW camp does- to preserve the history and legacy of our Civil war heroes. Quite possibly interested audience listeners can become new hereditary or associate members

and/or financial donators for future Camp activities or fund raisers.

Whether the camp gets involved with the awards protocol is voluntary; but I believe that most NYS camps will seize the opportunity to spread the word about the work the camp is doing. Of course, if a unit is so far removed from the AOR of a camp, they will send their Form 7, directly to the Ass’t Quartermaster who will send it back to the State Medals coordinator already assigned in each state across the USA.

Since the amount of medals a State Medals coordinator can present in his state is unlimited to a deserving cadet, I’m hoping that a CAMP will reach out to the units on Form 7 in their AOR and tell them about our award being offered to one person in a unit and establish some rapport that will benefit the Camp greatly in the future.

NYS has 17 Camps but over the years few medals have gone to deserving cadets. Giving a camp brother the opportunity to work with young people as the camp medals coordinator, can be gratifying and give meaning to being part of the Camp team. The types and locations of units we give medals to can be easily found on the internet. Reaching out requires a simple email or letter as some units across the state may never have heard about SUVCW or what unit type can request a medal? Assisting a unit and ultimately rewarding a deserving cadet in front of his peers can be exhilarating as I have discovered, presenting

at awards ceremonies many medals and certificates as well as Eagle certificates. as Commander of the COL Theodore Roosevelt MOWW Chapter of NYS.

To ensure that NEW YORK State has a successful awards presentation season and maybe the best in the nation, I attached a map of all 62 counties and asked Camp Commanders to tell me which county their SUVCW Camp’s AOR and location would be; and, what other counties could they support medal presentations in, if feasible when requested to do so. We make presentations to cadets who have earned them. From experience, they will always remember an award and who presented it to them, Maybe, this will be a FUTURE CAMP BROTHER?

In F.C and L

Paul Farinella MAB Camp #544 NYS Medals Coordinator.

Passings-

Harold Cheetham



Sodus - Harold J Cheetham, 72, passed away on Monday, February 2, 2026.

Harold's graveside service will be in the spring at a date and time to be announced.

In memory of Harold, please consider donating to the Wilmont Cancer Center, 601 Elmwood Ave., Rochester, NY 14642, in lieu of flowers.

Harold was born in Sodus, NY, on Sunday, December 13, 1953, the son of the late Martin and Rita (Le Frois) Cheetham. He graduated from Sodus High School and was employed at Sun Rad before eventually retiring from Family Dollar, where he served as a manager.

To keep himself busy in retirement, Harold hosted a local radio show, "Harold's Old Time Radio." He was a member of the Sodus and Sodus Point Historical Societies and frequently shared his knowledge of local history on Facebook-particularly that of veterans. He often researched where veterans were laid to rest and posted photographs to honor their service. Harold enjoyed reading and had a fondness for antique shopping with Irene.

Harold will be remembered by his spouse, Irene; sons Joshua Cheetham, Jarrod Cheetham, Jason (Megan) Cheetham, and William Adams; his five grandchildren and one great-grandchild; brother, William (Betsy) Cheetham; sister-in-law, Linette Cheetham; and many nieces and nephews.

Harold is predeceased by his wife, Mary Lou in 2018 and a brother, Fred Cheetham.

You may write a memory or condolence to the family by visiting www.youngfuneralhomeny.com

Nellie M. (Austin) Fisk-Francis



December 3, 1934 ~ December 22, 2025 (age 91)

Nellie Marjorie Fisk -Francis, 91, of Hastings, New York went to be with her Lord and Savior on Monday, December 22, 2025.

Nellie was born in Albany, New York to Gerald and Ensey (Bailey) Austin. She was a graduate of Cairo Central High School.

Nellie loved horses and exploring nature. She was on the Executive Committee of the Oswego County 4-H for 6 years and was a

4-H horse program leader for 15 years. She was also a member of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, of which she was President for 2 years. Nellie had worked at North Country Department Store for 7 and a half years and North Syracuse Mini Storage for 12 years. She was also active in the Caughdenoy and Pennellville United Methodist Churches. Nellie was very sweet and genuine, bringing joy to those she came in contact with.

Nellie is predeceased by her first husband, Frederic M. Fisk, her brother Gerald Austin and sister-in-law Barbara, and sister Rita Fisk.

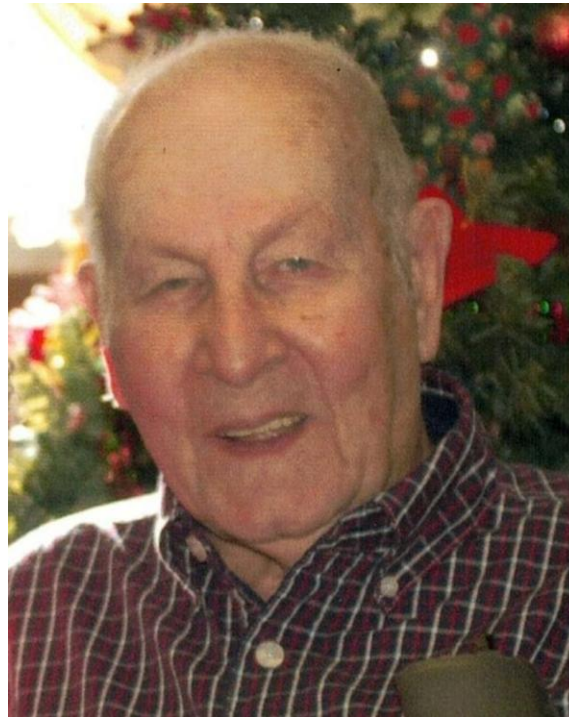
Surviving to cherish Nellie's memory are her husband of 25 years, Clark B. Francis, her nephews and nieces: Nancy Austin (Marc), David Austin (Kathy), Susan Arnett (David), Patti Austin, and Todd Fisk (Lewanne). Also, her stepchildren, Michelle Violando (Joseph) and Clark Francis Jr. (Lori).

Burial will be held in Round Top cemetery in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Pennellville United Methodist Church or the Oswego County 4-H Horse Program.

Silas E. Ferguson

January 12, 1934-January 1, 2026



Silas Edward Ferguson, 91, of Alpine, NY, passed away on Thursday, January 1, 2026.

He was born in Candor, NY on January 12, 1934, the son of Silas Naham Ferguson and Ferieda Marie Schooley Ferguson. Silas attended Brooktondale School until the 8th grade before going onto Ithaca High School on Cayuga St., graduating in 1952. His first

job was at Beaver Brook Farms delivering milk.

In 1956, he was drafted in the US Army, serving until 1958 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. After his service with the Army, he began working at NCR in Ithaca in 1959, where he worked for 34 years.

Silas worked with the Webelos Scouts, Troop 24 in Brooktondale and the Firemaster Explorers program.

He was a 50 year and life member of the Brooktondale Fire Company. During his years at the fire department, he served several years as a line officer, two years as Chief, Secretary of Commissioners, Chief of Fire Police and as a Trustee for several terms.

Silas played baseball, softball and slow pitch softball in Brooktondale for many years, and his team was League Champion in 1948.

He was a member of the Cayutaville United Methodist Church since 1989 and formally a member of the Caroline Valley Federated Church. Silas was a member of the American Legion, Civil War Club, Brooktondale Horseshoe team and Twin Tiers Car Club. His hobbies included working on classic cars and attending his grandchildren's sports activities.

Silas is survived by his wife of 36 years, Nancy (Chapman) Ferguson; four children, Silas M. Ferguson, Lori (Chris) Kanellis, Todd (Susan) Ferguson, Virginia (Roy) Trask; two step children, Amy (Wallace) Turner and Mary (Ray) Smith; sister, Jean Harrell; brother, John Ferguson; eleven grandchildren; ten great grandchildren; and niece, Deborah Cook.

He was predeceased by his parents; his first wife, JoAnn (Johnson) Ferguson; and nephew, Brett Anderson, who he raised.

Relatives and friends are invited to call on Saturday, January 10, 2026 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at Vedder-Scott & Zinger Funeral Home, 122 N. Genesee St., Montour Falls, NY. A memorial service will follow at 12:00 pm. Burial with military honors will be held at Laurel Hill Cemetery in the spring. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Cayutaviile UMC, Att: Paula Kinner, 60 Enfield Center Rd E., Ithaca, NY 14850.

Ryan Schuyler Bunce



Ryan Schuyler Bunce, 32, of Spencer, New York, went home to be with the Lord unexpectedly on Wednesday, March 4, 2026.

Ryan was a devoted husband, father, son, brother, and friend who proudly served his community as an investigator with the Tioga County Sheriff's Office. Throughout his career, he dedicated himself to protecting and looking out for the people of the community he cared so deeply about. Ryan was widely respected for his integrity, kindness, and quiet strength. He was the

kind of man people knew they could rely on.

He is survived by his wife, Cassidy Bunce, and their two children, Everleigh Mae and Colter Ray. Ryan was a loving and devoted father who cherished every moment spent with his family. While he gave so much of himself to his work and to those around him, his greatest joy in life was being with Cassidy and their children.

Ryan is also survived by his parents, Raymond and Donna Bunce; his sister, Katie Pericak (Dustin); his nephew, Dean Pericak; and his grandparents, Raymond and Bonnie Bunce and Diane Sharpsteen. He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Donald Sharpsteen. Ryan was deeply loved by many aunts, uncles, cousins, and countless friends throughout the community who were blessed to know him.

Ryan will be remembered as a good man with an old soul who was kind, dependable, humble, and deeply devoted to those he loved. He had a deep passion for the outdoors and especially loved hunting. Some of his happiest moments were spent in the woods, enjoying the peace and quiet of nature and the tradition of the hunt. He also loved baseball and played throughout high school and into some of his college years, a sport that remained close to his heart throughout his life. Whether on the field, in the woods, or surrounded by family

and friends, Ryan treasured life's simple moments and the people who shared them with him.

Ryan's life of service, his love for his family, and the kindness he showed to others will never be forgotten. His memory will live on in the many lives he touched and in the community that held him in such high regard.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing to support Ryan's family during this difficult time may contribute to a fundraiser established to assist Cassidy and their children.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-for-cassidy-everleigh-colter-bunce>

The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to the Jaime Hawkins George Foundation for their generous assistance with funeral expenses.

Calendar –

***April 10-12, NY Department
Encampment, Ithaca, NY***

***Sunday, April 26, 11am (tentative)
Annual commemoration of U.S
Grant's birthday. 122nd St and
Riverside, Manhattan.***

***Sunday, May 24, 1pm, New
Monument dedication, Oakwood
section of the Lewiston Cemetery,
Village of Lewiston (Niagara
County)***

***The 2026 National Encampment will
be held at the Aspire Hotel & Suites
located in Gettysburg from 30 July
to 2 August, 2026.***

***Saturday, August 22, Lyons, NY.
Dedication of new monument to the
111thNY. See above for details.***

Etcetera-

***From Jerry Orton
From 1991***



Danny Wheeler speaking at the Civil War memorial in Albany's Washington Park commemorating the 125th anniversary of The Grand Army of the Republic. Isabelle Roberts of Candor in War dress on left PNP of the Sons Auxiliary and Doug Smith of Camp154 sitting on right. Do not remember the unit.

Lowell Hammer, Commander in Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans came for the weekend.

Also from Jerry Orton, April 2025

Observance at Andersonville, Ga.



John Carroll of Americus, GA, placing a plant at the NY monument on behalf of the NY Dept Sons of Union Veterans. He is an SCV member.



Department of New York

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PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR- Douglas Brenner
PCC



1st Quarter 2026

THEVOLUNTEER

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

144th NY Department Encampment -

April 10-12, 2026 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

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