



SPRING 2016

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

# THE VOLUNTEER

## From the Commander

**Raymond W. LeMay III, Commander,  
Department of New York, SUVCW**

I hope and trust this spring has found you and yours well. It's been an honor visiting camps across the Department over this past year as your Department Commander and seeing firsthand the good work of the Order in action. I am looking forward to meeting more of you at the upcoming encampment. I'm also looking forward to reading about other camp activities in the annual reports at the encampment.

I am happy to report on a number of recent events and efforts and activities currently underway throughout your Department.



Mid-Year Meeting in Bridgewater, N.Y.

### MID-YEAR MEETING

On the 24th of October, the Capt. Homer Searle Camp No 114 hosted the Department Mid-Year meeting in Bridgewater, N.Y. at the Bridgewater Fire Hall. The Department uses this event to brainstorm for the upcoming year in planning events and programs. We had an excellent meeting with many new exciting items discussed for the upcoming year. In particular, some GAR Sesquicentennial activities were discussed.

Twenty-two Brothers from across the Department were in attendance representing their respective camps. Committee reports were made, Brother Department Archivist, Lance Ingmire made a presentation on the efforts of the The GAR & SUVCW Property & Artifacts Committee, and a lively discussion followed. Dept. Commander Ray LeMay III updated the Brothers on a number of important Department matters and a variety of activities completed during the first half of his term and unveiled the Bells Across N.Y. for the GAR program. A nice luncheon, hosted by the Homer Searle Camp No 114, gave Brothers time to chat about recent happenings at their respective Camps. At the end of the meeting the Brothers were treated to a tour of the Western Star Masonic Meeting Hall, built in 1816, with all of its original furnishings intact.



Testimonial Dinner in Ovid, N.Y.

### NEWS & EVENTS

On November 1, The Department of NY Auxiliary SUVCW Testimonial Dinner in Ovid, N.Y. took place honoring Sister Department President Hope Parker and the Department Commander (above). The Dinner was hosted by the NY Department Auxiliary and our own David G. Caywood Camp No 146 of Ovid, N.Y. A number of brothers in local camps joined us for the day. It was an wonderful time of shared camaraderie.

The Abraham Lincoln Camp No 6 of Rochester, N.Y. hosted their Annual Remembrance Day Dinner on November 14th, 2015 in Macedon, N.Y. We were joined by local sisters of the Auxiliary and Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War in which we shared camaraderie. Sister Caren Cleveland of the DUVCW,

*continued*

gave an excellent presentation on the upcoming planned Memorial Day Sesquicentennial program in Waterloo, N.Y.

The Sgt. Judson A. Hicks Camp No 111 of Palmyra, N.Y. is working on building and dedicating a monument for the veteran volunteers of nearby Macedon.

On January 9th, on camp visitation to the Cpl. James Tanner Camp No 134 of Cobleskill, N.Y., their officer installations took place, at which I was happy to install their Camp Officers and shared good camaraderie with re-elected Commander Peter Lindemann, PDC and his staff. Congratulations on your re-elections!



Lincoln Camp No 6 Remembrance Day Dinner

**The Volunteer** is the newsletter of  
The Department of New York  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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I was in attendance at the David Ireland Camp No 137 of Binghamton, N.Y. meeting on January 12th where it was discussed that a brother is writing a book on the 137th NY and they have found 800 of 4000 members' graves. They are working on assisting the local Civil War Round Table's project in erecting a Monument at Camp Susquehanna – a training ground for men going to war from 1861-1865 near Binghamton. (above, left panel)

There was a joint visitation with Sister Department President of the NY Department Auxiliary of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, Sister Hope Parker and Sister Virginia Twist, PNP at the regular March 5th camp meeting of the Col. George L. Willard Camp No 154 of Albany, N.Y. (above, right panel)

On March 7th, 2016, the Phineas Catlin Camp No 341 of Odessa, N.Y.'s meeting was held at their



Phineas Catlin Camp No 341 of Odessa, N.Y.

meeting location in the Odessa American Legion. The camp is currently working on trying to get a descendant namesake into their camp, is caring and funding work on the local veterans monument and are busy at hand with planning many camp events.

The Capt. Homer Searle Camp No 114 is working on hosting a contest at the Mount Markham Middle School in neighboring West Winfield, N.Y. for students to tell of their civil war-era ancestors for junior membership.

### ARTIFACTS-MEMORIALS-MONUMENTS-GRANTS COMMITTEE

In an effort to assist camps with the costs of renovation or restoration of monuments and memorials, I have appointed the Artifacts-Memorials-Monuments-Grants Committee. This committee appointment was made in accordance with the approved recommendations made at the 131st 2014 encampment in Rochester. The charge of the committee was to develop an application and procedures for disbursing grant funds from the Department. I am pleased to report that the committee has finished their work in developing an application and procedures for such grants and will be reporting their findings to the Encampment for approval. In the meantime, until this is implemented, I urge camps to bring their funding requests to the encampment.

### PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

I have appointed the Proceedings Committee with the charge of compiling, as best as possible, the missing proceedings from the 2010-2013 years. The committee is still working and requests camp cooperation, understanding, and patience with requests.

*continued*

## TAPS

I report with deep sadness and regret, the death of Bro. Arnold E. Vernoy of the Col. Augustus Van Horne Ellis Camp No 124 of Goshen, N.Y., whose Ancestor was Artificer, George H. Moore of Co. C of the 1st NY Engineers. My condolences and thoughts and regrets are with the family of Bro. Vernoy and the Brothers of the Ellis Camp.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Bells Across New York for the G.A.R.:** In November, I issued Department Order No 15 creating a sesquicentennial program event entitled *Bells Across New*



*York for the G.A.R.* to honor the memory and service of the veterans of the G.A.R. for the founding of the G.A.R. on April 6th, 1866. This event commenced on April 9th at noon time in which camps

across the Department of New York held a ceremony and rang a community bell 15 times (representing 150 years). Camps were provided with a Press Kit including templates and a logo.

**The Annual General Ulysses S. Grant Birthday Commemoration** will be held at Grant's Tomb in Manhattan on April 24th, hosted by the Capt. Oliver Tilden Camp No 26 of New York City.

**Our 133rd NY Department Encampment**, in cooperation with our Allied Orders who will also be convening at their respective encampments, will be held in Suffern, N.Y. from April 29–May 1, 2016 (see website).

This Memorial Day will be the **Memorial Day Sesquicentennial, in Waterloo, N.Y.**, the cradle of Memorial Day. We have been invited to a Sesquicentennial event in honor of the Sesquicentennial of the founding of Memorial Day by the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

**A quick reminder:** please read the By-Law proposals presented for the Encampment which are available

on the Department website. In addition, send delegations to the encampment, the encampment is your voice along with your camp reports.

I thank you all for the continued good work you are doing for the Order, you, the brothers and camps are the lifeblood of this Order. Without the camps, there is no Department. The Department is at your service. Feel free to contact us for assistance whenever the need arises.

Lastly, I encourage camps to remember that the Allied Orders were designed to be just that – allied. It is important that we work closely with our sisters in the Allied Orders to share in the good work together. I encourage camps to communicate often with the Allied Orders and work together on projects.

Our Department stands committed to honoring the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic & the Men from New York who saved the Union from 1861 to 1865. Thank you all for your work towards this commitment.

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## Property & Artifacts

Department Archive now has a home  
**Raymond W. LeMay III, Commander**

I am pleased to report that our Department Archive now has a home. In February, the hard work of the GAR & SUVCW Property & Artifacts Committee, Department Archivist, Bro. Lance Ingmire, and myself resulted in an agreement to store and maintain the charters, documents, art, photographs (ephemera) and other items (property) of the Department of New York, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at the New York State Military Museum.

As Department Commander I signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Department



and the Friends of the New York State Military Museum to house properly stored material, including many SUVCW charters, in the climate controlled museum as agreed by The GAR & SUVCW Property & Artifacts Committee (See Department Order No 23 for details about the MoU).

In addition, the entirety of the G.A.R. collection was granted to the New York State Archives and therefore will be made available to the public for research for future generations.

and the Friends of the New York State Military Museum to house properly stored material, including many SUVCW charters, in the climate controlled museum as agreed by The GAR & SUVCW Property &

I would like to thank The GAR & SUVCW Property & Artifacts Committee under the leadership of Department Archivist, Bro. Lance Ingmire, and fellow committee members: David M. Dziejewski, PCC, Tim Mabee, Jerry Orton, PDC, and Danny Wheeler, PCinC for their work on this issue. I also would like to recognize the efforts of Bro. Robert Keough, PCC for his years of service to the Department in storing and securing these archives.

There will be a special fund raiser of redundant extra items from the Department Archives at the encampment for the benefit of the continued conservation and preservation of the Department Archives.

## 2015-16 Orders of the Department Commander

**Department Order #11** Addresses re-location of the Department Encampment from Tarrytown to Suffern and changes to the Encampment Committee.

**Department Order #12** Belated announcement regarding the awarding of the Oliver P. Clark Plaque for individual recruiting and the PDC John G. Kernan Cup for camp recruiting for 2014-2015.

**Department Order #13** Appoints Proceedings Committee and Artifacts-Memorials-Monuments Grant Committee as special committees, seeks to fill vacant Department Officer positions, and announces the passing of Brother William P. "Bill" Warne.

**Department Order #14** Recognizes Veterans Day and calls on brothers and camps to participate in commemorations, memorials, parades, services and events held for all veterans in our communities.

**Department Order #15** Instructs camps to begin preparations for the GAR Sesquicentennial on April 6, 2016. This includes organizing a bell ringing ceremony to be known as "Bells Across New York for the G.A.R." and registration of GAR monuments, leading to a book of monuments to be self-published by the Department.

**Department Order #16** Announces revocation of charters for Daniel E. Sickles Camp No. 3 and General Alexander S. Diven Camp No. 77.

**Department Order #17** Commander LeMay's Thanksgiving Day message.

**Department Order #18** Announces with deep regret the passing of Real Son and Brother Charlie Brock of London, Kentucky

**Department Order #19** Conveys Commander LeMay's holiday message, welcomes new and returning camp officers, reminds camps to submit Form

#22 and to update their web sites, and congratulates Tilden Camp #26 for developments of the Greenpoint Monitor Museum.

**Department Order #20** Announces Brother George J. Weinmann, PDC and Tilden Camp No. 26 as recipients of the 2013-2014 Oliver P. Clark Plaque and PDC John G. Kernan Cup, respectively.

**Department Order #21** Announces the 133rd Encampment of the Department of New York to be held on April 29 through May 1 at the Crowne Plaza in Suffern, N.Y.

**Department Order #22** Announces various annual reporting requirements and procedures thereof. Also requests that material for the spring issue of the department newsletter be sent to Brother Donald G. Zeilman.

**Department Order #23** Announces an understanding with the Friends of the New York State Military Museum for the archival of Department charters, documents, art, photographs (ephemera) and other items.

## Monitor Museum News

### MONITOR MUSEUM RECEIVES GRANT

The Greenpoint Monitor Museum was awarded a Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund Grant for \$599,200 for 100% engineering design and permits required to restore its shoreline, raise the site for community flood protection, and provide public access to the Museum's USS Monitor Park on the Bushwick Inlet.

The Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund was created from the \$19.5 million paid by ExxonMobil in a settlement with the State of New York in 2011.

The grant application was made by the museum as lead sponsor and included partners: National Oceanic

and Atmospheric Administration USS Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, PS 110, PS 31, PS 34, MS 126, Saint Stanislaus Kostka School, and **Oliver Tilden Camp No 26**. The grant includes contributions of \$208,800 from the museum and partners.

### THREAT OF EMINENT DOMAIN ENDS

On December 23, 2015, after 12 long years under the threat of Eminent Domain on the Greenpoint Monitor Museum's land that shares the building and launch site of the USS Monitor in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, N.Y., that threat of eminent domain was removed when the City of New York agreed to not pursue the property.

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams celebrated the anniversary of Motiva Enterprises' donation of land along Bushwick Inlet to the Greenpoint Monitor Museum by announcing an agreement from the City that preserves the site for future construction of an institution dedicated to the Civil War-era ironclad warship and its role in local history.



Brooklyn officials received commemorative medals of appreciation from the board of directors of the Greenpoint Monitor Museum. The group included members of the Oliver Tilden Camp No 26.

Photo: Erica Sherman, Office of the Brooklyn Borough President

# Service for Heman Blasdell

Weber Camp No 44 holds rededication

William Alan Christen II, Camp Graves Registrar

The temperature was in the mid-30s on November 14 when members of the Weber Camp No 44 and Weber Guard assembled to re-dedicate the headstone of Heman M. Blasdell in the Quaker Meeting House Cemetery, North Collins, New York. Also participating in the service were representatives from the Chaplain P. G. Cook Camp No 223, the Union Volunteers Fife and Drum Corps, Company A of the U. S. Regular Engineers Battalion, the 49th New York Infantry Re-enactors, and the 155th New York Volunteer Infantry Reenacting Regiment.

This headstone re-dedication was Weber Camp's 10th service that recognized a Civil War Veteran and comrade in the Grand Army of the Republic. Heman Blasdell was selected for the honor as a wounded Civil War Veteran and Comrade in the S. C. Noyes Post Number 220 of the Grand Army of the Republic. He was a Past Commander of the Noyes Post.



L-R: Br. Bob Gilbert and Br. Jim Pace and Alex Percy of the Union Volunteers Fife and Drum Corps



L-R: Br. Mark Hageman Jr., Noah Luthart (Engineers, Co A), Parker Ball (Engineers, Co A), Jude Merlin (155th NY), Evan Blake, (Engineers, Co A), Br. Ray B. Ball

Heman Blasdell enlisted on September 15, 1861 at Albany, New York and was mustered into Company H, 44th Regiment, New York Infantry, on September 21, 1861 as a Corporal. He was wounded on July 1, 1862 during the battle at Malvern Hill, Virginia. Corporal Blasdell was discharged for wounds on July 21, 1862 at Washington, D. C.

After his Army service, Mr. Blasdell began his business career as a telegraphy operator. He was soon promoted to the position of station agent. Mr. Blasdell formed a partnership to conduct a general mercantile business, which lasted for five years. He was employed as the ticket agent for the Erie and Pennsylvania Railroad in the area now known as the Village of Blasdell. Mr. Blasdell erected the first store and dwelling in this area. He was appointed the first U.S. Postmaster for the "Blasdell area" on January 23, 1885. In 1895 he was appointed by the New York Governor as a trustee of the Women's Orphan Asylum and elected treasurer in 1895 of that institution. Mr. Blasdell was a prominent Republican. He was supervisor of the town of North Collins for three years before

he was chosen to represent the New York State Eighth Assembly District in 1895, and in September 1896 he was nominated to succeed himself.

The Village of Blasdell, New York is named after Mr. Blasdell, since he was a prominent property owner and the first station master of the Erie and Pennsylvania Railroad depot in the area.

Heman Blasdell died from burns received when his house in North Collins burned due to a natural gas explosion on May 10, 1903. Heman was cut off by the flames and was forced to jump from an open second story window. The shock of the fall and the severe burns contributed to his death.

Weber Camp Brothers and Weber Guard members Cliff Anderson, Ray B. Ball, Ray L. Ball, Bill Christen, David Demmerley, Mike Erb, Mark Hageman Sr., Mark Hageman Jr., and CC Bill Tojek participated in the service.



L-R: David McCaskey (Engineers, Co A), Br. Ray L. Ball (Musician)

## Dept. Eagle Scout Program

Christopher Hosford, Dept. Eagle Scout Coordinator

The Department of New York's Eagle Scout recognition program continues strongly. Over the past year, certificates of merit have been presented to 36 Boy Scouts throughout the Department who have achieved the rank of Eagle. Right, Department Eagle Scout Coordinator Christopher Hosford - Junior Vice Commander of the Admiral John L. Worden Camp No 150 - makes a certificate presentation in Amenia, N.Y. on February 13. Pictured alongside Chris are, from left, Scout moderator Nick Smith, Eagle Scout Honoree Max Smith, Max's mother, and scoutmasters of Boy Scout Troop 29.

All department camps are reminded to send information about their Eagle Scout certificate activities as they occur to Chris at: «cfhosford@gmail.com».



In October, Grant Cottage ended its regular season with an encampment involving a variety of groups. Brothers of Willard Camp No 154 provided a Color Guard for the event. Department of N.Y. Commander, Ray LeMay III was on hand with eight additional Brothers.



Troop 29 Eagle Scout certificate presentation in Amenia, N.Y.

## Support the Anniversary

Celebrating the Sesquicentennial of the GAR

The Col G. L. Willard Camp No 154 decided to celebrate the Sesquicentennial of our antecedent organization, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), by developing a unique logo for this 2016 celebration year. A cooperative exchange of ideas between Brothers Bob Keough and Dave Dziwulski resulted in the production of the logo design ultimately made possible by the imagination and talents of Brother Keough (Fig. 1). The logo show a composite silhouette of three veterans: a sailor wearing a flat hat representing the Navy and the Revenue Cutter Service; a recruit wearing a kepi who represents the rank-and-file men from both the Army and Marines; and a profile wearing a slouch hat meant to represent all officers. The first tangible product was a commemorative pin (Fig. 2) that was followed by the development of a Zazzle store with a variety of products that sport the logo. Visit [www.zazzle.com/willardcamp154](http://www.zazzle.com/willardcamp154) and show your pride in our GAR forebears by making a purchase and displaying the GAR Sesquicentennial logo.

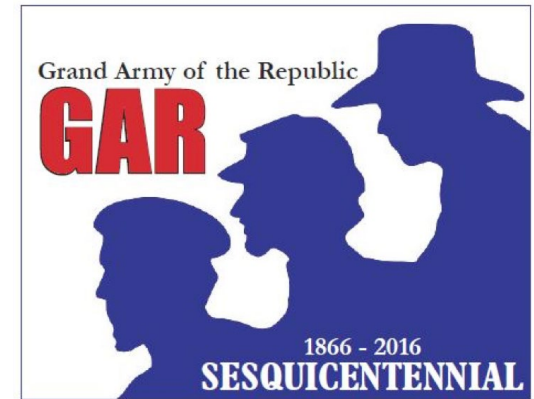


Fig.1



Fig.2



Fig.3

# G.A.R. in New York State

A brief history of encampments and meetings

Jerry Orton PDC, Dept. Historian

The first post of the New York Department, GAR, was O'Rorke Post No 1, Rochester, chartered on October 8, 1866. Over 600 posts were chartered, with one of the last being McDowell Post No 1672 in Elmira in 1915.

The national GAR was founded on April 6, 1866 with all of the founding members having taken part in the Battle of Shiloh. The New York Department was founded in Albany on April 3, 1867.

In the beginning, the New York Department commanders tended to be officers of the Union army. The first, Col. James B. McKean of Saratoga Springs, commanded the 77th NYS Volunteers. He was elected the first Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief at the first national encampment in Indianapolis, Indiana on November 20, 1866.

Communities such as Rochester, Utica, Buffalo and Syracuse tended to be sites for New York Department encampments, but Seneca Falls, Auburn and Lake Placid were also sites. Municipalities sought the encampments in part for the honor of celebrating the



GAR Parade National Encampment, Saratoga 1907

heroic deeds of the veterans but also for the revenue from the thousands of guests in attendance.

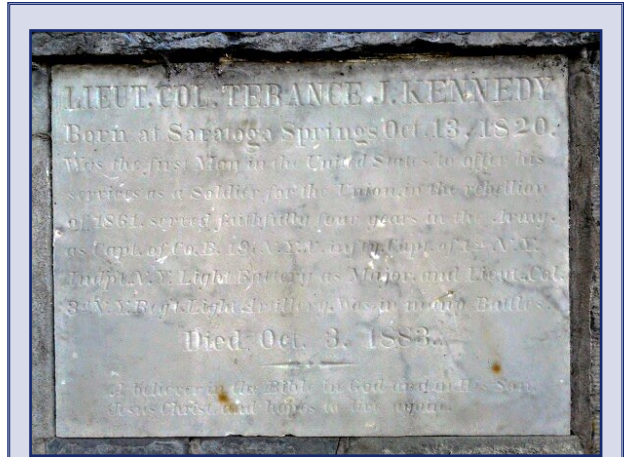
The Woman's Relief Corps met with the GAR from the Corps founding as the GAR's auxiliary in 1883. The Sons of Union Veterans did not meet with the GAR at Department encampments until 1915 in Albany. Encampments were held in conjunction with local events. The 11th semi-annual encampment was held June 12, 1877 to coincide with the cornerstone placing of the Soldiers and Sailors Home in Bath. The 18th semi-annual encampment was held in Buffalo when the S-and-S Monument was dedicated, July 3 to 4, 1884. The 47th encampment was held June 12 to 13, 1913 at which time the S-and-S monument was dedicated.

National Encampments were held in Albany, 1879; Buffalo, 1897; Saratoga Springs, 1907; Rochester, 1911 and Rochester, 1934. It should be noted that Saratoga Springs was the smallest community to ever host a national encampment and was not a city until a few year later.

The 82nd and last Department encampment of the GAR was held June 11, 1948 in Rochester, the site of the first GAR post. James A. Hard, Department Commander, a veteran of Co F, 32nd NYSV, was the only member to attend. Past Commander-in-Chief Robert Rownd of Ripley could not attend. The City of Rochester made this last meeting of the GAR a grand celebration.

When James A. Hard died at age 111 on March 12, 1953 he outlived the 409,561 white troops, 4,125 colored troops and the 35,534 sailors and marines who served in the Union forces from the Empire State.

The deeds and accomplishments of the Grand Army of the Republic will remain in the history of the Empire State because of its members' devotion to its motto of "Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty."



**Within in a deteriorating tomb** at Fort Hill Cemetery, Auburn, N.Y., lie the mortal remains of Lieutenant Colonel Terance J. Kennedy (1820-1883), 3rd New York Light Artillery. He is another clamant to the title of "The first man in the United States to offer his services as a soldier for the Union."

Jerry Orton PDC, Dept. Historian



**COMMANDER**  
Raymond W. LeMay III PCC

**ARCHIVIST**  
Lance Ingmire

**SR. VICE COMMANDER**  
Paul F. Ellis-Graham PCC

**PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR**  
Richard E. Straight

**JR. VICE COMMANDER**  
Daryl Verstreate, Jr. CC,

**HISTORIAN**  
Jerome L. Orton PDC

**SECRETARY**  
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Barry T. Hawkins CC

**TREASURER**  
Jeffrey Albanese PDC

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

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

**EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR**  
Christopher Hosford

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Raymond B Wheaton PDC

**SIGNALS OFFICER / WEBMASTER**  
Robert M. Paul, Jr. PCC



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

**133<sup>RD</sup> DEPARTMENT  
ENCAMPMENT**

**APRIL 29–MAY 1, 2016**

**SUFFERN, N.Y., THE CROWNE  
PLAZA SUFFERN-MAHWAH**

SPRING 2016  
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