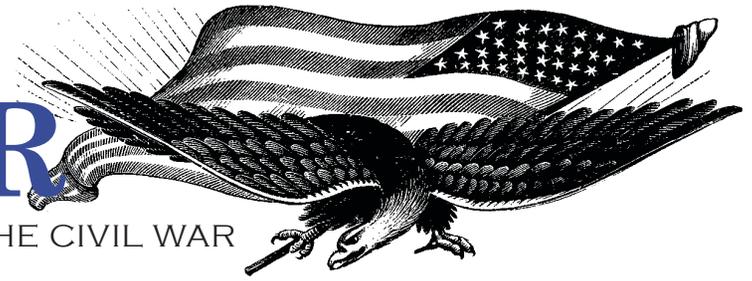


THE VOLUNTEER

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



From Department Headquarters

Jeffrey Albanese, Commander, Department of New York, SUVCW

Dear Members of the Department of New York — As the new Commander of the Department, I would first and foremost like to thank all of you for your willingness to honor your ancestors whose service and sacrifice served our country in a time of great danger to our government and institutions and by that sacrifice and service preserved the Union. By doing so, they helped forge this country into a beacon of freedom and innovation unrivaled in the world.

As I begin my term as Department Commander, I am reminded that over the last couple of years there has arisen a feeling that the Department has little to offer the camps and the members of the Department. I think the reason for that belief is that there is a lack of communication between the Department and its camps and consequently its members. I hope to rectify that in part by directing that the Department Officers have more contact with their counterparts in the camps and by the Department Commander having more communication with the camps through their commanders.

In addition, much of that communication will be coming through our website and I encourage each of you to check on it frequently for information that may be useful to you as members, to your camps and to those who have an interest in preserving the

memories of those who defended this country during that time of dire need. Due to the high cost of printing and postage our Department newsletter will now be published exclusively on the website in downloadable form so you can print it out and share it with those members who may not have access to a computer. Further, new issues of the newsletter will be placed on the website at predictable times, on or about August 1, December 1 and April 1 so you will know when to look for it. Communication however is a two-way street and not only should you hear from the Department and me but we need to hear from you and your camps. So, feel free to call, e-mail or write.

We at present have a Calendar of Events page on the website and we would like you to place your events and activities on that site not only to help your immediate camp brothers but also to permit other brothers and members of the public to attend. We need you to publicize you activities not only locally but also regionally and if warranted nationally so that more and more people know whom we are and what we do.

Now for some announcements, the Department Encampment Committee has been revamped and this coming year the Encampment will be held in our state capital at the Best Western Albany Airport Inn,

continued



A Fitting Close

Sunday morning of the 127th Department Encampment at Newark, N.Y. was cold and wet and as a result, Commander Ray Wheaton canceled the scheduled memorial service at the G.A.R. plot in the Newark Cemetery. Past Department Commander Dale Theetge and his wife Diane were staying through Monday, so on Monday morning, a bright and beautiful day, they saw to the placing of flowers on all the graves and on the marker in the G.A.R. plot. Sons of Union Veterans flags were also displayed at the G.A.R. marker. A prayer and a special *Thank You* was said to the men lying under the sod.

Meeting Details

Department Midyear Meeting

- » Saturday, October 30, 2010
- » Masonic Lodge #533
403 East Main Street, Endicott, New York
- » 10 AM to 3 PM
- » A lunch buffet will be served

128th Encampment, Albany, N.Y.

- » Friday to Saturday, May 13-15, 2011
- » Best Western Albany Airport Inn
200 Wolf Road, Albany, New York
- » Room rates: \$79 per night double occupancy (taxes excluded), includes breakfast
- » Hotel information may be found at www.bwalbanyairport.com
- » Sunday, May 15, 8:30 AM
Ceremony in Hudson View Cemetery, Mechanicville, Saratoga County, at the gravesite of Colonel Elmer Ellsworth of the 11th New York Fire Zouaves. A tour of the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center in Saratoga Springs follows.



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

Signals Officer | Editor

Donald G. Zeilman

Copyright 2010

continued from page 1

200 Wolf Road, Albany, New York on May 13–15, 2011. This is at the crossroads of a major north/south and east/west highway system so getting there should be easier for many of our members. Room rates are also inexpensive at \$79 per night, which also includes a full hot breakfast. Further details will be published on the Department Website in the coming months.

We have also set the midyear meeting of the Department for October 30, 2010 from 10 AM to 3 PM. The meeting will take place at the Masonic Lodge, at 403 East Main Street, Endicott, New York, which is just outside of Binghamton, New York. The meeting's purpose, as defined by our Bylaws, is to discuss and formulate plans for the betterment of the Order with such plans being presented to the upcoming Encampment. Please plan on attending.

Most importantly, as the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War approaches the Department has decided to take up the challenge caused by the State of New York's failure to form a commission to honor the 450,000 New Yorkers who served in that war. We have formed a long-term Sesquicentennial Committee whose duties will include the creation of a state logo, the creation of a Department Sesquicentennial web page, dissemination of important events to the media, a speaker's bureau and the execution of at least one Sesquicentennial Department observance a year. What is exciting is we are planning to hold a significant Sesquicentennial of the Civil War event at the gravesite of Colonel Elmer Ellsworth, confident of President Lincoln, and the first Union officer killed during the war and considered the first

“martyr” of the Civil War. As you may recall Colonel Ellsworth was a national proponent of Zouave units and the Colonel of the 11th New York Infantry (Fire Zouaves) who was killed while removing a Confederate flag from a hotel in Alexandria, Virginia on May 24, 1861. The ceremony is currently planned for May 15, 2011 beginning at 8:30 AM after the conclusion of the Department Encampment and will be followed by a tour of the New York State Military Museum for SUVCW members, if you or anyone in your camp is interested in serving on this committee or participating in this event please contact me. Further details will be forthcoming on the website but we expect a large event with participation of a number of dignitaries and it will be one of the first Civil War Sesquicentennial events in the country. Please also start to check out our new Sesquicentennial website as we begin to build it in observance of 150th anniversary of the American Civil War.

In closing, , in order to honor our Civil War ancestors as this significant anniversary approaches, it is of the utmost importance that we, and all the Allied Orders, work together to inspire in our fellow Americans an appreciation of the service and sacrifice of those ancestors. It is equally important that we work to instill in those same fellow Americans a proclivity to preserve the memories, monuments, memorials, and battlefields of our ancestors so that all future generations will know what they did to preserve this great country.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,
Jeffrey Albanese

Headstone Dedicated

Five Civil War Veterans Honored
George J. Weinmann, PCC

Oliver Tilden Camp 26, Sons of Union Veterans Civil War had a Headstone Dedication and relic display on Saturday, May 22, 2010 at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Maspeth, Queens, N.Y. for Sgt. Philp Grosbeck Co. B, 15th New York Engineers, Sgt. Arnold Davidson Co. A, 46th New York Volunteers, Pvt. David McLyman Co. B, 175th New York Volunteers, Pvt. Elias T. Bragaw Co. H, 7th New York State Militia, and Pvt. John Scheper Co. I, 10th New Jersey Volunteers.

Sgt. Grosbeck (upright headstone in the photo below) enlisted in New York, N.Y. as a Private in Co. B, 15th New York Engineers on June 17, 1861, promoted to full Corporal on Feb. 14, 1862, promoted to full Sergeant on Nov. 1, 1862. About July or August of that year, the designation of the unit was changed to Co. B., 15th New York Infantry. He was discharged on June 25, 1863. He lived at 237 Devoe Street, Brooklyn



George J. Weinmann reading the dedication at the unveiling of the Grosbeck headstone

and died on Oct. 13, 1893 at the New York State Soldiers and Sailors Home Hospital in Bath, New York.

Oliver Tilden Camp #26, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and Co. I, 83 NYVI (9 NYSM) Sons of Veterans Reserve thanks everyone who supported this effort.

It is Oliver Tilden Camp's goal to make sure that as many veterans as possible are suitably remembered.

Corrigenda

Please note the following corrections to the article on the newly formed Phineas Catlin Camp #341 in the Spring issue of *The Volunteer*. The correct spelling is **Phineas Catlin**, and the Camp is resurrected from the Old GAR Post #341, not a Sons of Union Veterans Camp.

Doubling Our Numbers

Take SUVCW applications wherever you go!
Lyman E. Baker, PCC, Dept. Patriotic Instructor

There are many opportunities to promote membership in the Order. The goal is to bring in one new member per month per Sons member. Carrying the SUVCW application wherever you go is one of the most effective means to reach this goal.

If you are setting flags and/or a new headstone in a cemetery and someone tells you that it's a nice job, offer a Sons application. If you are a SVR member going into the field to fire a musket or cannon, carry Sons application forms and have them ready to hand out. Hand out Lincoln pennies to each and everyone who seems interested. Make some Hard Tack, cut it up in pieces and hand it out to the public along with a Sons application. Set up a table at one of your city or town public summer events and promote the Sons. Many folks are interested but do not know how to join. Many local newspapers have items such as *Town Talk* where localities tell of special happenings, you could tell of the Sons there. Some newspapers have community events listings that are free, you can tell about the Sons there also.

If you are a dual Camp member, you have twice the opportunity to promote the Sons. You can make that dual membership really mean something.

The SUVCW web site is excellent place to download forms and the National Quartermaster has all the necessary forms. He can be contacted at: QM@suvchw.org or on the SUVCW website under Officers.

Lets make 2010–2011 the term when the Sons of Union Veterans doubles its membership!

U.S. Grant Observance

The Department of New York has pledged to support Grant Cottage

At 8:08 AM on July 23, 1885 Civil War hero and the 18th President of the United States Ulysses S. Grant succumbed to cancer while at a cottage on Mt. McGregor, which is located in Wilton, New York. Grant, terminally ill and financially ruined had retired to that location with his family in early June of 1885 to finish his memoirs, which were to be published by his friend Mark Twain. Having won his battle against time, he finished his memoirs only a few days before his death and they would earn, as he had hoped, enough to take good care of his family. The general would lie in state in the cottage's parlor and a funeral was held on the front porch on August 4, 1885.

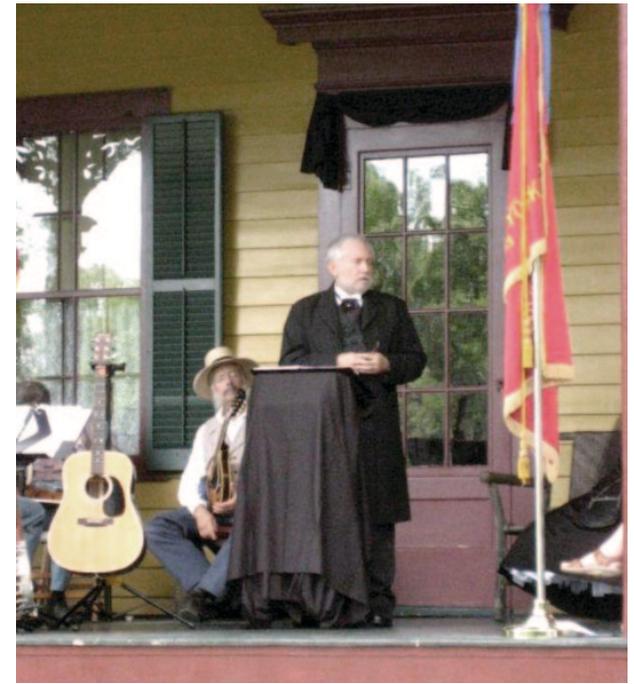


Jerry Orton, PDC; Lorraine Orton, Auxiliary to SUVCW; Thomas Capstraw, Willard 154; Commander Albanese; Steve Trimm; and Raymond W. LeMay III PCC, Willard 154

The site now known as Grant Cottage, now a National landmark and a state park, is staffed by the Friends of the Ulysses S. Grant Cottage a not-for-profit organization incorporated by the Regents of the State University of New York. The cottage contains many of the items he used while in residence there, his chair, the bed where he died, the clock that his son stopped at the moment of his death and other personal effects all as they were when he died. In a room still on display are many of the floral arrangements sent at the time of his death, some from GAR posts, all preserved.

On July 24, 2010, the Friends held an observance of the 125th anniversary of Grant's death at the cottage. Over 150 people attended the event, which featured bagpiper Jerry Cashion and period music from the 77th Regimental Balladeers. A color guard from the Willard Camp of the SUVCW presented the colors and raised the flag to half-staff and Jeffrey Albanese, Commander of the Department of New York, SUVCW and Lorraine Orton representing the Ladies Auxiliary to the SUVCW and the Women Relief Corps laid wreaths. Commander Albanese also read General Order #15 from SUVCW Commander-in-Chief Leo Kennedy issued in commemoration of the event. Colonel Frederick Grant (played by Friends member Steve Trimm) gave an excellent farewell address to his father.

Although the Grant Cottage is owned by the State of New York, it gets little support from the State to maintain these historic premises. Consequently, the Cottage is in need of substantial repair, with a leaking roof, water in the basement, and peeling paint. The Department of New York SUVCW has pledged



Colonel Frederick Grant (played by GC Friends member Steve Trimm) gives the farewell address

to support the Cottage so please write your State Assemblyperson and State Senator along with the Governor and ask them to support this historic treasure. In addition, become a member of the Friends or make a contribution to save the last residence of the greatest hero of the Civil War. They may be contacted at The Friends of Ulysses S. Grant Cottage, Inc, PO Box 2294, Wilton, N.Y. 12831 or on the web at www.grantcottage.org. The Cottage is open to the public Wednesday through Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM, Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day and Saturday and Sunday at the same times from Labor Day through Columbus Day.

Promoting the Order

Growth as a result of increasing camp's public presence

Douglas Deuel, PCC, Sr. Vice Commander

While at the Encampment, a brother asked why our Camp (David Ireland Camp #137) was so successful. The answer was *exposure to the public*: getting out there and letting them know who you are, what you're doing, and that you really believe in your organization. Being seen.

For example, these are some of the activities in which we participated in May and June:

- » We set up and ran a *show and tell* at New Milford, Pennsylvania on May 1st & 2nd.
- » We did a live artillery demonstration for the Cub and Boy Scouts in Berkshire, N.Y.
- » We attended and had the show and tell after the Parade in Walton, N.Y. on May 30th
- » June 3rd found us at the Susquehanna Valley Middle School doing live fire demonstrations plus the *show & tell*
- » June 15th brought us to the Binghamton Civil War Round Table
- » June 22nd had us back at the Spring Forest Cemetery in Binghamton with the Daughters to dedicate the grave of Eli Tanner of the 54th Mass. Colored Infantry
- » On June 26th, we were at Summerville, Cayuga County for dedication programs involving the 75th N.Y. Infantry and the President Millard Fillmore birth site.

Informing the public of the history of our Fathers fulfills our duty as Sons of Union Veterans as well as promotes the Order in the wider community.

Signal Corps 150

Honoring the memory of Western New Yorker General Albert Myer

Brother Bob Gilbert of J.B. Weber Camp#44 recently traveled to Fort Gordon, Georgia, to attend the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Army Signal Corps.

The Signal Corps was the creation of Western New York native Albert J. Myer. A pre-Civil War assistant surgeon in the army, Myer became the world's first signal officer in 1860. It was not until 1863, after two years of improvising with borrowed resources, that Myer became head of the provisional, wartime organization.

Following the war, Myer received the brevet rank of brigadier general; but he did not really come into his own until July of 1866 when Congress reorganized the Signal Corps and, with the permanent rank of colonel, he again became chief signal officer. Myer headed the Signal Corps from August 21st, 1867 until his death at Buffalo, N.Y., in 1880.

In Georgia, Brother Gilbert spent time researching the Civil War roots of the Signal Corps, finishing up the week with the Signal Corps Birthday Ball.

This was the culmination of two months of supporting the anniversary. He portrayed General Myer at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, in April, attended a wreath laying ceremony at Fort Myer in May, and was present for a bronze marker dedication at Forest Lawn Cemetery's Muster at the Meadow.

Bob also funded and helped design a full-page ad in the Buffalo News wishing the Signal Corps a happy 150th birthday. Kudos, Bob!

Final Muster



Brother George Miller

Col. Augustus van Horne Ellis Camp 124

George Scott Miller, Jr., 64, Past Camp Commander and Life member, died Thursday, July 15, 2010. George was a retired Disabled Corrections Officer for the State of New York and was a Vietnam Veteran who served for three years with 32 months of foreign service in the Field Artillery as a Cannoneer.

Brother Miller was from a military family that had served in the Colonial Wars, American Revolution, War of 1812, The Civil War and World War II, prior to his own service.

Greatly interested in genealogy and history, he was a member of many hereditary organizations including the Sons of Union Veterans, Col. Augustus van Horne Ellis Camp 124. George was also instrumental in registering many Civil War veteran gravesites in the Middletown area having won the Department award two years in a row for doing so. He also spearheaded the effort to cleanup and preserve the historic Slate Hill cemetery.

Brother Miller is survived by his wife, Nancy E. Messenger Miller.

George received burial with military honors at the family plot in Wallkill Cemetery, Middletown, N.Y.

Department Awards

Presented in nine categories to camps and individual brothers

At the 127th New York Department Encampment June 4–6, 2010, the annual Department awards were announced. The awards presented were as follows:

- » Joseph S. Rippey PC-in-C Memorial Award for most outstanding service — PDC Todd Shillington
- » The PDC John G. Kernan Cup — Willard Camp 154
- » The Oliver P. Clark Plaque — Raymond W. LeMay III, Willard Camp 154
- » The Department's Camp Patriotic Award — Thomas Crouse, Ireland Camp 137
- » The Department Musician's Award, the Oliver Norton-Gustav Schurmann Award — Marty DeVault, Ireland Camp 137.
- » The Department Newsletter award — Sydney Camp 41.
- » The Department Graves Registration Award — French Camp 17
- » The Junior Vice Commander's Growth Award — French, Sydney, Diven, Ellis, Stewart-Hope, Tanner, Ireland, Worden, Willard and Searle
- » The Department Patriotic Instructor's Award — Sickles, Lincoln, Tilden, Sydney, Weber, Diven, Searle, Ellis, Stewart-Hope, Ireland, Worden, Willard, and Cook

At the encampment this year, a tenth Department award was created. It will be awarded for the best camp website.

In addition to the Department awards, the Archibald Gracie Camp #985, Sons of Confederate Veterans Award Plaque was presented to the Ireland Camp 137.



Sesquicentennial Logo

The Official Logo of the New York Department of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War celebrating the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War has been adopted by the Department.



Eagle Scout Honored

Dale Theetge PDC, Eagle Scout Representative for Sydney Camp 41, stands with Bill Stevens at his Eagle Scout ceremony held at Norsen Bridge Park in Newark, N.Y. on June 13 (left).

Stevens, a member of Scout Troop 111, received his certificate and letter from Brother Theetge who is responsible for the Sons' Eagle Scout program in an area stretching from New York's southern tier to south of Rochester.

Patriotic Instructor Award

Requirements taken from camp report sheet
Lyman E. Baker, PCC, Dept. Patriotic Instructor

Patriotic Instructor awards were handed out to thirteen camps that were very busy during the year.

The requirements for a Camp Award are taken from the Annual Report of Camp Patriotic Instructor report sheet. Please make sure to make notes on all your camp actives during the year. Please send me your Annual Camp Reports at the end of the year, in turn I have to send them to our National Patriotic Instructor for review, he sends them back and then award consideration for the Annual Encampment is determined from those reports.

I am very proud of all the community actives the 19 New York Camps are doing to encourage the public to remember what took place in 1861–1865, the sacrifices made.

I hope and pray that **all** New York Camps receive a Patriotic Instructor Award next year in Albany.

General Orders of the Department Commander

General Order No.1

1. To all the brothers of the Department of New York who attended the 127th Encampment at Newark, New York I extend my appreciation for your support in electing me your Commander and will do my best to warrant your faith in me in leading the Department.

2. The headquarters of the Department shall be transferred to 19 Gregory Drive, Goshen, New York 10924 and all correspondence to the Commander may be mailed to that address. Phone communications may be made to 845 294-0924 and email at jalb@frontiernet.net

3. All brothers of the Department are reminded that the current Bylaws of the Department, amended in June of this year, are posted on the website. In addition, all Department and Camp officers should review the Department Bylaws and the Constitution and Regulations of the Order and should be familiar with their Job Responsibilities.

4. Pursuant to Article XI section 2 of the Bylaws of the Department please accept this as a summary of the annual report of the Department Secretary and Treasurer. Per the Secretary as of 2010 May/June Camp status reports the Department had 538 members and 25 Juniors in 18 Camps which is an increase of 21 members and 5 Juniors from the prior year. In addition, a 19th Camp received its Charter at the Encampment. Per the Treasurer, total income of the Department for the year was \$12,139.11 with the primary income from dues and grave marker sales.

Total Expenses were \$9,638.73 with the main expenses being per capita dues expenses to the National of \$9,066.00. Net income was \$2,500.38.

5. The 127th Encampment formed a special committee to be called the Department of New York SUVCW Sesquicentennial Observance Committee. The Committee is to exist until the 132nd Encampment and is to make an annual report concerning its activities. The Committee is to promote the observance of the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War within the Department. The duties of the committee shall include but are not necessarily limited to the creation of a Sesquicentennial logo; creation and maintenance of a Sesquicentennial webpage on the Department website, creation of a speaker's bureau, and dissemination through the media of important Civil War events and observances related to the contributions of New Yorkers during the Civil War. In addition, the Committee shall plan and execute a minimum of at least one Departmental Civil War Observance event per year. In accordance with the dictates of the Encampment, I appoint Raymond Lemay III, Robert Pugsley and Peter Lindeman, PDC to serve on the Committee in addition to Raymond Wheaton, PDC and myself as the current Department Commander. Brother Lindeman has been elected chairman of the Committee. I direct that the Committee commence its work. In addition, if other brothers wish to serve on the committee please contact the undersigned.

6. In accordance with the Department Bylaws the Department Newsletter, the *Volunteer*, is to be published at least three times a year. In consultation

with Donald Zeilman the Department Signals Officer the Newsletter will be published on the Department Website on or about August 1, on or about December 1 and on or about April 1. All camps are requested to forward a copy of their Camp newsletters to him on a regular basis. His email address is dgzeilman@gmail.com his physical and mailing address is 1104 Success Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212.

7. The 128th Encampment of the Department of New York will be held on Friday May 13, 2011 through Sunday May 15, 2011 at the Best Western Albany Airport Inn, 200 Wolf Road, Albany, New York.

So Ordered this 18th day of June 2010
Jeffrey Albanese, Department Commander,
Department of New York SUVCW

General Order No.2

1. In accordance with Article III, section 5 of the Department Bylaws, I, as Department Commander, hereby call a midwinter meeting of the Department of New York, SUVCW to occur on October 30, 2010 from 10 AM-3 PM at the Masonic Lodge #533, 403 East Main Street, Endicott, New York. Pursuant to the Department Bylaws the purpose of the meeting will be for "discussing and formulating plans for the betterment of the Order, such plans to be submitted to the following annual Department Encampment for such action as a majority vote of those present at said Encampment may decide." All brothers are invited.

So Ordered this 7th day of July 2010
Jeffrey Albanese, Department Commander,
Department of New York SUVCW

Department of New York

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Commander
Jeffrey Albanese PCC

Sr. Vice Commander
Douglas E. Deuel PCC

Jr. Vice Commander
Robert L. Pugsley PCC

Secretary / Treasurer
Michael S. Bennett PDC

Counselor
Danny Wheeler, PCinC

Council
Lyman Baker PCC
Raymond W. LeMay III, PCC
Todd A Shillington PDC

Archivist
Michael S. Bennett PDC

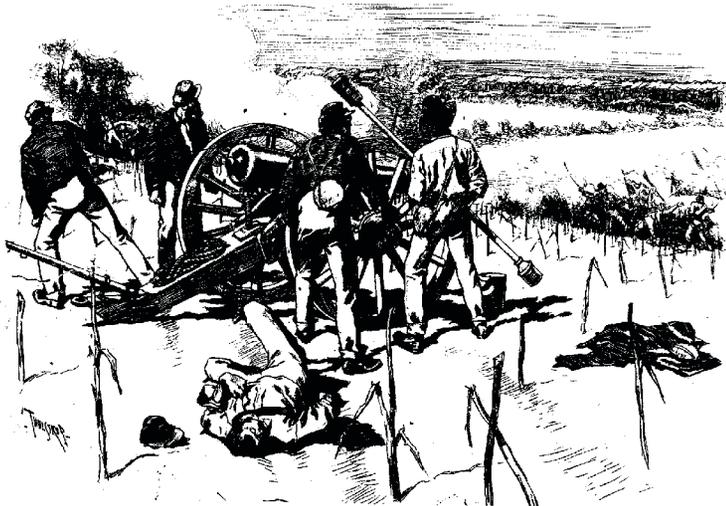
Patriotic Instructor
Lyman E. Baker PCC

Historian
Jerome Orton PDC

Chaplain
R. Stuart Smith, Jr. PCC

GAR Highway Officer
Matthew J. Hereford PCC

Webmaster
Robert L. Pugsley PCC



SUMMER 2010

THE VOLUNTEER

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