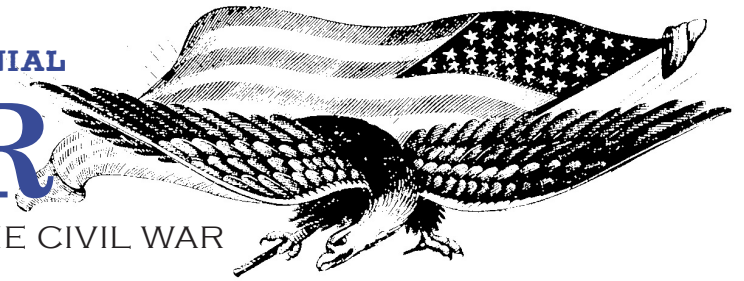


THE VOLUNTEER

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



Remembering Ellsworth

Jeffrey Albanese, Commander, Department of New York, SUVCW

On May 24, 1861, 24-year-old Colonel Elmer Ellsworth, commander of the "Fire Zouaves" a regiment made up of New York firefighters, was shot and killed while removing a large Confederate flag that had been flying over a hotel in Alexandria, Virginia. A friend and confidant of Abraham Lincoln, his body would lie in state in the White House and thousands in New York City would view his body as his remains made their way for burial in his hometown of Mechanicville, N.Y. While little remembered today Ellsworth was a national celebrity in 1861 due to his fame as being the drillmaster of an elite military drill team, which had

traveled the country just prior to the war. Ellsworth's death, the first Union officer killed, galvanized the Union. The cry "remember Ellsworth" would become a rallying cry for the Union cause.

On May 15, 2011, hundreds of people, including veterans, scouts, re-enactors and Gold Star Mothers, braved the rain to pay their respects to this Union martyr at his graveside at the Hudson View Cemetery in Mechanicville, N.Y. Sponsored by the Department of New York SUVCW and the City of Mechanicville a funeral possession reenactment of Ellsworth's funeral led by Zouave re-enactors from around the country led a hearse bearing a coffin into the cemetery where it was removed by area firefighters in dress uniforms. Speakers included Congressman Chris Gibson (20th NY Congressional District), New York State Historian Dr. Robert Wieble, Mechanicville City Mayor Anthony Sylvester and New York Department SUVCW Commander Jeffrey Albanese. Lincoln re-enactor Jack Baylis read Lincoln's letter of condolence to Ellsworth's parents and music was provided by the Empire State Youth Ensemble. The ceremony concluded with a mass presentation of wreaths led by the President of the New York Gold Star Mothers, a twenty-one gun salute and taps.



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This ceremony was declared a National SUVCW Sesquicentennial of the Civil War Signature Event and was endorsed by the New York State Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee. (Commander Albanese's article on the Ellsworth Event also appears in *The Banner*, Summer 2011)



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The Department of New York
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Signals Officer | Editor
Donald G. Zeilman
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General Orders of the Department Commander General Order No.1

1. To all the brothers of the Department of New York who attended the 128th Encampment at Albany, New York I extend my appreciation for your continued support in electing me to a second term as your Commander and will do my best to warrant your faith in me in leading the Department.
2. The headquarters of the Department shall remain at 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 Department and Camp officers are reminded that they 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 the 2011 May Camp status reports, the Department had 543 members and 21 juniors in 19 Camps, which is an increase of 25 members and juniors from the prior year. Per the Treasurer, as of May 13, 2011, which predates the Department Encampment, our total gross income of the Department for the year to date was \$9,946.00 with the primary income so far from dues. Total Expenses to date were \$568.42. It is important to note that since this report predates the end of our fiscal year these figures are incom-

plete and do not include the income from recent fundraising at the Encampment nor does it include the expenses of the Encampment, nor the officers end-of-year expenses nor the payment of per capita dues to National. Our 2010 budget projects a small deficit by the end of the fiscal year.

5. 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 as well as any stories or articles they wish to publicize in the newsletter. His email address is dgzeilman(at)gmail.com his physical and mailing address is 1104 Success Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212.
6. By the authority vested in me as Department Commander I hereby appoint Brother Ray Wheaton, PDC and reappoint Brother Michael Bennett, PDC to the Department Encampment Committee for the 2011/2012 Department year.
7. The 129th Encampment of the Department of New York will be held on Friday May 18, 2012 through Sunday May 20, 2012 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 15 Crossroads Court, Newburgh, New York. A tour of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point is planned for Sunday May 20, 2012, details to be determined.

So Ordered this 25th day of June, 2011
Jeffrey Albanese, Department Commander,
Department of New York SUVCW

Significant Commitment

Walter French Camp 17 helping to raise money for Watertown Civil War monument

When Camp Commander Richard Beirman discovered that the City of Watertown was looking for a group to help raise the \$200,000 needed to restore the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, he quickly contacted them. It was with swift response that Mike Lumbis briefed the members of the Walter H. French Camp 17 at their Annual Luncheon in Herrings, N.Y.

Mr. Lumbis' presentation showed the dire need to have the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Monument restored. The bronze statues required cleaning in order to preserve them for another 100 years. The seals in the granite are starting to erode and the granite itself needs cleaning. He went into the details of the work required based on the conservation consultant's assessment. The French Camp unanimously voted to support this effort and quickly formed the Soldier/Sailor Statue Restoration Committee to raise \$50,000.

At the 26 March meeting; the members of the French Camp discussed the dinner fund raiser to be held on 25 September, and other fund raising ideas. The most immediate fund raising items were to put PayPal on our Soldier/Sailor Statue Restoration Web Page and a link for the on-line magazine drive. Donation cards were created and posted on the site. Mentioned was to get newspaper articles and work with the local television station. Both have yielded great public relations for the Camp and project. Commander Beirman conducted one television spot connecting Fort Sumter to our organization and fund raising efforts. The second TV spot was Commander Beirman and CJVC John Goloski briefing the public about the SUVCW and our fund raising efforts.

Donation request letters have been drafted and forward to all the local American Legion and VFW posts. Brother John Green is developing patches to sell and raise funds. Request for a \$1,000 grant from the SUVCW Charitable Foundation and the GAR Memorial Fund have been submitted to help in this effort. The camp believes it is part of its mission to preserve the memories of the Boys in Blue and to educate the public about the Civil War. The fund raising effort has started and the target date is 25 September to raise the \$50,000. The re-dedication is slated for sometime in September 2012.

U.S. Grant Remembered

Oliver Tilden Camp 26 holds its annual commemoration at Grant's Tomb

Oliver Tilden Camp No. 26 held its annual ceremony marking the birthday of the former U.S. President at Grant's Tomb in Manhattan's Morningside Heights on April 17. The event drew representatives from many Civil War organizations.

The keynote speaker was Sons of Union Veterans Larry Clowers, in the role of General Grant, which he has played for over 22 years. Other speakers included Oliver Tilden Camp Commander George J. Weinmann, and Patrick Falci, an actor and performing historian who played the Confederate General A.P. Hill in the 1993 film *Gettysburg*. Falci began his remarks by exclaiming how wonderful it was that the federal government had not shut down, which would have prevented the celebration from taking place, since Grant's Tomb is run by the U.S. National Parks Service. Echoing the view of many historians, he identified the Civil War as the seminal event that led the country on the path to true nationhood.



Jeff French, John Goloski, Richard Beirman, Robert Moore, Robert Roshia II, & Scott French



The General Grant Birthday Commemoration at the Grant Monument

“Before the Civil War, Americans said the United States *are* ...,” Falci noted. “After the Civil War they said the United States *is* ...”

(Source: Article by Al Ronzoni in the *West Side Spirit*, <http://westsidespirit.com/2011/04/27/echoes-of-civil-war-at-grant's-tomb-for-150th-anniversary>, also see *The Banner*, Summer 2011)

Ellis Camp Highlights

Colonel Ellis Camp 124 participates in Memorial Day and Dedication events

On Memorial Day May 30, 2011, the Colonel August Van Horn Ellis Camp held its Memorial Day Service at the graveside of Sergeant Frederick F. Wood of Company G of the 124th New York State Volunteers at the Warwick Cemetery in Warwick, New York.

Sergeant Wood was born in Chester, N.Y., in 1842 and enlisted in the 124th on August 14, 1862. Frederick Wood was described in his enlistment papers as 5 foot 5 inches tall, with blue eyes and brown hair and listed his occupation as student. He was mustered into the 124th as a sergeant, on September 5, 1862 at Goshen and shortly thereafter left with his regiment, said to be 930 men strong, for Washington, D.C. He was mortally wounded at the battle of Chancellorsville, on May 3, 1863 and died on June 3, 1863.

A historical marker locating the site of Camp Wickham, the recruitment Camp of the famed 24th New York Volunteers known as the 'Orange Blossoms' was dedicated at the Orange County Government Center in Goshen, New York on Flag Day, June 14, 2011. The Government Center is located on what was once known in 1862 as the Wickham Farm and several hundred yards behind the current Government Center was located the first camp of the 124th. Speakers at the event included Orange County Executive Edward Diana, County Historian Cornelia W Bush and SUCVW New York Department Commander Jeffrey Albanese Money for the marker was raised by the Colonel Ellis Camp 124 SUCVW which included a grant from the Orange County Historian.



Camp Wickham Dedication Event on June 14

General Jones Honored

David Ireland Camp 137 participates in 150th Anniversary commemorative event

April 19, 2011 was proclaimed General Edward F. Jones day in Binghamton, N.Y. A 150-year anniversary commemoration ceremony was held at the 1889 Broome County Soldiers and Sailors Monument in downtown Binghamton.

Attending the event were Binghamton Mayor, Matthew T. Ryan; several representatives of government; John Darrow, owner of the General Jones family house; a unit of SUCVW reenactors; a color guard, SUCVW musician drummer and fife; a piper from the 137th David Ireland Camp; Sons of Union Veterans New York Department Senior Vice Commander, Douglas E. Deuel; and Lyman E. Baker, NYD Patriotic Instructor.

On April 15, 1861, General Jones was ordered to muster the regiment in uniform on Boston Common, notice being given that the troops were to go to Washington. After the 6th Massachusetts reached

Baltimore on the way to the capital, it had to switch railroad stations. About three-quarters of the men passed through without incident.

The remainder of the companies were cut off and encountered a mob. Four soldiers were killed by weapons fired and stones thrown and 36 other soldiers were wounded. But it was not until their own lives were threatened that the 6th Massachusetts returned fire. Thus, the Baltimore Riots of 1861.

The 6th Massachusetts was the first regiment to report at the capital. President Lincoln welcomed the regiment by shaking hands with General Jones and saying "Thank God you are here, for if you had not arrived tonight we should have been in the hands of the rebels before morning." That night, they slept in the Senate chamber at the capitol.

General Jones moved back to New York State after the war, and opened the Jones Scale Works in Binghamton. In 1866 he became New York State Lieutenant Governor. Jones died in 1913 at the age of 85.



Binghamton honors the memory of General Jones

128th Encampment

Action items from the May 14 meeting

1. Commander Albanese recommended that all Camps become participants in NYS Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee.
2. Commander Albanese recommended that all Brothers attempt to complete the Memorial University Program
3. Commander Albanese Moved that the By-Laws be amended to Change Article III, Section 5 such that the Mid-Winter Meeting would be called the Mid-Year Meeting. APPROVED
4. Commander Albanese Moved that the By-Laws be amended to Change the heading of Article from Bonds to Transfer of Information. APPROVED
5. Commander Albanese Moved that Article VII, Section 9 be deleted and number 10 be renumbered as 9 (removing Region Association reference). APPROVED
6. Commander Albanese offered a Resolution re: maintaining Grant's Cottage membership at the \$100 Patron level, encouraging Dept. and Camps to do all that they can to support Grant's Cottage on Mount McGregor. APPROVED
7. Commander Albanese offered a Resolution, re: the Watertown Soldiers & Sailors' Monument that a grant submission be sent to the SUVCW Foundation and GAR Memorial Fund, that a solicitation for funds be placed on the Department Website, and that all Brothers be encouraged to support this project. APPROVED
8. Counselor Wheeler recommended that Camp and Dept. Officers Reports be submitted prior to the Encampment, printed, and made available to the Encampment for their review, rather than being



- read. APPROVED – Incoming Commander should direct that this be done in this manner this year, and create a By-Laws Committee and task them with drafting the language for a proposed By-Laws amendment to handle this in the future, which can be considered by the 2012 Encampment.
9. Historian Orton recommended that the General Grant March be made the Official Dept. Song – this was changed to a By-Laws amendment, moved by Todd Shillington, noting that the General Grant March would be the official March of New York Department Encampments in a new Article III, Section 6.
 10. GAR Highway Officer Hereford recommended that post markers be added to the Highway signs [Interpreted as placing the 150th logo on existing signs – APPROVED that this be investigated to see if possible, and how much?] GAR Highway Officer Hereford recommended stenciling the backs of the GAR Highway Signs placed by the Department to help in identification/theft prevention. APPROVED
 11. Brother Ray Wheaton suggested that a plan or policy be developed concerning the care and pro-

tection of the Department's Collection of artifacts possibly in the care of some centrally located and willing institution. It was decided that the incoming Commander should direct that the Artifacts Committee address this matter, and be prepared to present their report with their recommendations to the 129th Department Encampment.

12. Brother Michael Bennett suggested that Encampment Proceedings be placed on the Department Website. APPROVED
13. Reelection of the Department Commander, Senior Vice and Junior Vice Commanders and the election of Todd Shillington, Raymond LeMay and Ray Wheaton to Department Council.



Camp Active in Ithaca

Sydney Camp 41 observances and public service honors the Order

Sydney Camp 41 observed Memorial Day in the Ithaca City Cemetery, at the Grand Army of the Republic section.

Camp Commander Norman E. Wheeler, Sr. invoked the Divine blessing, Danny Wheeler, PCC & PC in C, gave the address to the to the public, Raymond B. Wheaton, PCC & NYDC, read General Logan's Order Number 11, Ralph A. Jones read Sydney Camp 41 deceased members, and Andrew Wheeler and Ryan Wheaton fried the volley. An unknown observer, who was witnessing the service, was asked to play Taps. Ralph A. Jones, PCC and Lyman E. Baker, PCC & NY-DPI, comprised the color guard. Raymond B. Wheaton and Holly Hollingsworth, laid a wreath.

The Camp was joined by the Vietnam Veterans #377, who always participate in the Memorial Day service.

Past Commander-in-Chief, Danny L. Wheeler was appointed by the Mayor of the City of Ithaca to be in charge of all War Monuments in DeWitt Park. Sydney Camp held a clean up in April. Work accomplished included removing graffiti from the Memorials, loading and spreading mulch, cleaning up leaves & debris, and raking the lawns. Participants worked vigorously for six hours. The Vietnam Vets and the Cornell University NROTC Marine students also assisted.

Department Patriotic Instructor, and Sydney Camp member, Lyman E. Baker, PCC, advises that if you have a park in your city, gather a group of folks and clean it up—as many of you may already be doing. People do care, even if they do not tell you.

Willard Camp Activities

Busy Summer for the Col. Geo. L. Willard Camp 154 members

Willard Camp has been busy participating in local events throughout the summer. After attending the Department encampment and participating in the signature Ellsworth event, brothers have:

- » Participated in flag raising to kick-off the Greene County Sesquicentennial commemorations
- » Performed services at both the Oakwood and Albany Rural Cemeteries on Memorial Day
- » Participated in a ceremony held by the Diocese of Albany, and our home base of St. Agnes Cemetery, to bless and dedicate a new headstone for Cpl. Francis A. McCotter. This event also was the initiation of St. Agnes Cemetery's Adopt a Civil War Veteran program that assists in the repair or replacement of headstones
- » Participated in Civil War Heritage Days in Troy
- » Participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the grand opening of the North Star Underground Railroad Museum

In July our brothers attended the unveiling and dedication of a new plaque that was added to the Peace and Victory Monument located in Crandall Park in Glens Falls. Willard camp also did the presentation of colors at the ribbon cutting for the opening of Ron Soucy's flag collection exhibit at the Watervliet Historical Society. Mr. Soucy has the largest private collection of US flags and the exhibit included his pride-and-joy: a 35-star flag from the Civil War era. Finally, Bro. Orton participated in a ceremony commemorating the 126th anniversary of the death of U.S. Grant at Grant Cottage in Wilton.



Brothers Malinoski, Grady, LeMay, Zeilman Keough and Berns at Albany Rural Cemetery



Sister Lorraine Orton, Brothers Keough, Rodd, Orton and LeMay at the dedication in Glens Falls.



Brothers Walter, Dziewulski, Keough and LeMay at the opening of the Ron Soucy Flag exhibit

Photograph: Michael Watkins, Selkirk, N.Y.

Captain Gregg Memorial

Camps assemble at Newfield to commemorate the service of Gregg at Gettysburg

A Memorial Service was held for Captain Joseph Gregg of the 137th Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry, on July 2 in Newfield, N.Y. at the Bank Street Cemetery. Captain Gregg was killed while leading a night bayonet charge down Culp's Hill at Gettysburg, 148 years ago.

Participating in this great event were Col. David Ireland Camp 137, who provided Chaplain Al Kline, and Phineas Catlin Camp 341, who supplied the Honorary Color Guard. The 137th New York Volunteer Infantry stood guard and fired three volleys as a woman in period dress lay a wreath. She was accompanied by several young girls in period dress from the Binghamton area. The 116th Ind. Lt. Artillery, shot the cannon (Moses) to open and close the ceremony.

In addition, the Civil War Fife and Drum group, from Berkshire, N.Y. performed, and a Sydney Camp 41, Junior Member from Newfield laid a wreath.

David Cleutz, author of *Fields of Fame & Glory* was the speaker. He spoke of Captain Gregg's heroic effort on Culp's Hill, to a very large crowd, who walked through the unmown, abandoned, hazardous cemetery strewn with broken headstones and grapevines, and stood in the very hot conditions, to listen and be a part of this monumental occasion.

Thank to Larry Lattin, who, with Newfield's Town Historians Lynn Watros, Alan Chaffee, Debbi Payne, Deb Weeks and Rosemary Rowland, made this event happen in Newfield's 200th anniversary year.

New Command

Lyman E. Baker, PCC, Dept. Patriotic Instructor

Greetings to all New York State Camps. Lyman E. Baker has been appointed the New York Department Patriotic Instructor for 2011/2012. Reminder that all camps need to fill out the Camp Report and file it with me.

The reports are based on a January to December 2011 calendar. Camps must make this report not later than February 2012. If a new camp Patriotic Instructor is appointed near the end of the year, please pass this information on to him. Thank You.

Copies of the Camp and Department Patriotic Instructor Report are on the SUVCW web site. If you are experiencing any difficulty, just e-mail me or call by phone. I'll do my best to help you.

A monthly PI talk will be sent. If your e-mail address changes, please let me know, so I can make the change also. Same with street address or telephone number. Keep up the good work, try to promote the Sons, by bringing one new member into your Camp.

Patriotic Instructor's Awards

At the Albany Encampment, I handed out 13 Camp Patriotic Instructor Certificates. Two Camp Patriotic Instructors split the Departments \$100 award, Tilden and Willard, for their outstanding work during the year.

Congratulations on the terrific job you have done. Lets make 2011/2012, even better. Try to increase your camp membership this year.



Final Muster

Brother John D. O'Halloran

Oliver Tilden Camp 26 New York

Rev. John D. O'Halloran died on Friday, July 1, at age 82. He was born in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn in 1928, and graduated from Theological College Seminary, Garden City, in 1962. A proud veteran of the U.S. Army, O'Halloran served as the parish historian for four Louisiana parishes and later served as the official state historian of Louisiana. He would go on to serve as historian for the Long Island Communities of Island Park, Oyster Bay and Massapequa.

O'Halloran was president of numerous organizations and the founder of the Long Island Chapter of the Anglican Orthodox Fellowship; numerous honorary degrees were also bestowed on him by colleges in Europe and the U.S.

In the church, O'Halloran first served as a seminary assistant with Atonement Parish, Brooklyn, before moving on to St. Ann's Parish in Brooklyn Heights. From there, he served at Holy Cross Parish before moving on to St. Paul's Williamsburgh Church, where he would serve through the end of his life.

O'Halloran was a member of various knights orders and social organizations. He was a member of the 69th Regiment Memorial Association and the American Legion James L. Young Post. He served as chaplain for the Oliver Tilden Camp 26.

Brother O'Halloran will be greatly missed by the brothers of Tilden Camp.



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Sesquicentennial Logo Window Decals

For a contribution of \$5 or more to the Department Sesquicentennial Committee a window decal bearing the *New York Sesquicentennial of the Civil War* logo will be sent free of charge. Please send your contribution to Danny Wheeler, PCinC, 5 Benny Lane, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850, and include your name and address.



SUMMER 2011

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