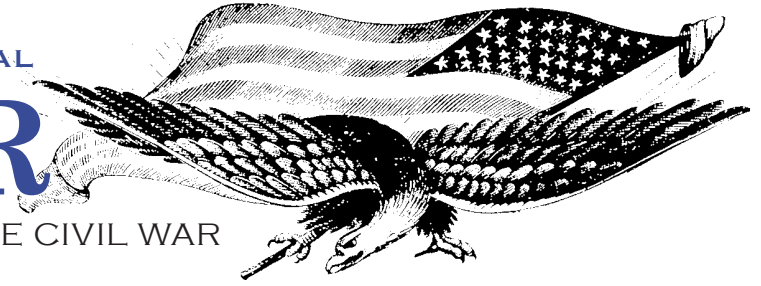


# THE VOLUNTEER

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



## 130th Department Encampment

Allied Orders hold meetings in Ithaca, New York

The 130th Encampment of the Department of New York, SUVCW was held along with the conventions of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Department of New York and the Auxiliary to the SUVCW, Department of New York on May 3rd through the 5th, 2013 at the Ramada Conference Center in Ithaca, New York.

A campfire was held on Friday May 3rd, consisting of an interesting presentation with exhibits on Seneca County and the Civil War given by Walter Gable, Seneca County Historian. The business meeting of the Sons was held the next day (Saturday) followed by an Allied Orders Banquet. The business meeting was presided over by Department Commander Jeffrey Albanese, PDC and consisted of officer, camp and committee reports including the special committees on youth recruitment and future encampments. The significant change to the Bylaws of the Department was moving the automatic suspension date for camps that failed to file their report from May 15 to May 1 or the business meeting of the Department Encampment whichever was earlier and was necessitated by the earlier Encampment dates.

The Joseph S. Rippey Award for outstanding service was awarded to Brother Donald Zeilman, Department Signals Officer/Editor of *The Volunteer*.

The Kernan Cup for the camp that recruited the most new members was awarded to the Sickles Camp 3, which also won the Department Website Award. The Archibald Gracie Camp 985, SCV Award went to the Ellis Camp 124 for their participation in the annual Shohola Train Wreck ceremony in Barryville, New York and Shohola, Pennsylvania. The Oliver P. Clarke Plaque for the individual who recruited the most new members went to Richard Lewis, PCC of the Catlin Camp 341. Department Commander Albanese completing his third and final term as Department Commander was elected an honorary member of the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154 Legion of Merit and was presented both a framed certificate and medal by the Willard Camp which he gratefully accepted.

Newly elected officers of the Department were Robert Pugsley, PCC, Department Commander; George Weinmann, PCC, Senior Vice Commander; Paul Ellis Graham, PCC, Junior Vice Commander; Michael Bennett, PDC, Secretary/Treasurer; and to Department Council, Raymond Wheaton, PDC, David M. Dziejewski, PCC, and Robert Keough, CC. Among the appointed officers Brother Danny Wheeler, PCinC was reappointed Department Counselor and Jeffrey Albanese, PDC, Department Patriotic Instructor.



Department of New York Command and attendees



Memorial Service at the Ithaca City Cemetery

On Sunday May 5th, the Encampment concluded with a Memorial Service at the GAR Plot in the Ithaca City Cemetery.

# From The Commander

Robert Pugsley, PCC, Commander, Department of NY

Dear Fellow Brothers,

As I stated in my Department Order No 1, I am honored to have been elected by you to lead the Department for the coming year. With everyone's help we can make it a successful one. I also wish to thank all the Brothers who agreed to serve as Department Officers.

As we enter the third year of the Sesquicentennial, we should see our Order grow stronger both in visibility and numbers. We should do everything we can to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The 175th anniversary (called either a Dodransbicentennial, a Quinseptumcentennial, or a Septaquinquecentennial) is only 25 years away so the Sesquicentennial will be a good practice run for us.

My belief is that the Department exists to support the Camps. Always feel free to offer suggestions or ideas on how we can better assist you. Take advantage of Facebook to promote the exchange of ideas. Maybe assign one person from your Camp to follow us on Facebook. As time goes on, the importance of electronic and social media (for better or for worse) will become more important.



**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  
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Our Newsletter is an integral part of our Order. It lets us know what is going on in the Department and what other Camps are doing. Please submit articles to tell us of the important work you are doing. Also please go to the website to keep up to date on what is going on across the state.

In closing, I would like to take the opportunity to talk about the first word in our motto, *Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty*. We must remember that the ties that bind us in Fraternity are stronger than any small differences between us. We must always bear this in mind and focus on our main objective which is to carry on the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,  
Robert Pugsley  
Commander, Department of New York, SUVCW

## Ellis Camp Memorial Day

Colonel Ellis Camp 124 holds services

Jeffrey Albanese, PDC

On Memorial Day, the Colonel Ellis Camp 124 honored 1st Lt. David C. Cloyd Co. C 87th New York Volunteers with a graveside Service at the Vails Gate, New York Methodist Church Cemetery. Lt. Cloyd was mustered out of service in Virginia during the Virginia Peninsular Campaign in May 1862 for disability due to disease and died June 9, 1862 in Virginia one of the thousands who died of disease during the American Civil War.

Thereafter, the Camp traveled to their camp headquarters in Goshen, New York and held their annual observance at the Monument to the 249 war dead of the famous 124th New York State Volunteers



Graveside Service at Vails Gate Cemetery for 1st Lt. David C. Cloyd, C 87th New York Volunteers

nicknamed “the Orange Blossoms.” During the observance, the Camp initiated Anthony Houston descendant of First Lieutenant John Houston of the 124th New York State Volunteers into the Camp and the Order.



1st Lt. David C. Cloyd's headstone





## U.S. Grant Anniversary

Tilden Camp's Annual Observance on April 28

On Sunday, April 28, 2013, Oliver Tilden Camp 26 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War honored President Ulysses S. Grant and his wife Julia Grant for his 191st birthday at Grant National Monument in Manhattan, N.Y.

This year's ceremony was in memory of Clifford Henke, PDC & PCC and Sister Lorraine M. Orton, National Historian for the Women's Relief Corps, SUVCW Auxiliary and Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Many National, State and local organizations of the Allied orders of the GAR and historic and patriotic organizations were in attendance. Special thanks to our National SUVCW Commander-in-Chief Perley E. Mellor, PDC and our keynote speaker Bro. Larry Clowers (U. S. Grant) and his wife Connie (Julia) for making a memorable event.

The Parks Department Manhattan sites helped with the setup of all the chairs, podium, platform and speaker system. They are also thanked for keeping the Tomb in wonderful condition and for draping the flags outside the tomb for the ceremony.

## Battle of Olustee Monument

Donations sought for Union monument on site

The Battle of Olustee was fought in Florida on 20 February 1864, the largest and most significant battle fought in that southern state. The purpose of the Union expedition into Florida in 1864 was to sever Confederate supply lines, establish a loyal state government and to recruit black soldiers. The Union order of battle included three infantry brigades, a small cavalry brigade, three artillery batteries and an engineer regiment.

One of the brigades, under the command of Colonel William Barton, was an all-New York brigade consisting of the 47th, 48th and 115th New York. In addition, the engineer regiment was the 1st Engineer Regiment, NYSV. The battle was a Confederate victory. Casualties in killed, wounded and missing were 946 Confederate and 1,861 Union. The casualty rate among the Union soldiers was 40% making it the third bloodiest Union battle in ratio to casualties versus soldiers involved in the entire war. Among these Union casualties, 929 or about half were New Yorkers.

Today, the battlefield is contained within the Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park and is located within the Osceola National Forest, it is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Although there are three Confederate monuments erected on the battle site by the Daughters of the Confederacy not one monument to Union soldiers or regiments exists on the battlefield.

The Department of Florida, SUVCW is working to correct this wrong and place a monument at that battlefield dedicated to all the Union regiments who fought in the Battle of Olustee and has established a Monument Fund. The Department of New York and the Department of Massachusetts have joined

them in this endeavor. Please help them in fulfilling that goal and in remembering our New Yorkers who fought and died in that battle by making a donation payable to the "Department of Florida, SUVCW" and note on the memo line that it is for the Olustee Monument Fund. Please send your donation to Mr. Charles D. "Buck" Custer, Treasurer, Department of Florida, SUVCW, 6043 Lake Pointe Drive #305, Orlando, Florida 32822. Online donations via PayPal will soon also be available through their website on the Battle of Olustee which is currently under construction: <<[www.dofsuvcw.org](http://www.dofsuvcw.org)>>

Please also join them at the battlefield on February 14, 15 and 16, 2014 to commemorate the Sesquicentennial of that battle sponsored by the L.L. Mitchell Camp 4, Department of Florida a National SUVCW Sesquicentennial Signature Event.



On Saturday, March 9, 2013, the day before the 100th anniversary of her death, Harriet Tubman, was honored with a ceremony at her grave at Ft. Hill Cemetery Auburn, N.Y. Members of the Auburn African American Methodist Zion Church honored her memory. Department Historian, Jerome Orton, PDC was present and fired three rounds in her memory.



Lowville N.Y. Memorial Day Parade

## Honoring Our Veterans

Walter H. French Camp 17 participates in events honoring veterans past and present

On 18 May 2013, the Walter H. French Camp 17 participated in the Armed Forces Day Parade followed by the Watertown Soldiers and Sailors Statue Rededication Ceremony with City of Watertown Mayor Jeffrey Graham and 10th Mountain Division Commander Major General Townsend. Present were Brothers Rick Beirman, CC, Robert Roshia II, Rick Holley, and Jeffrey French. Both events keyed on honoring our current veterans and those of the Civil War.

On 27 May the Walter H. French Camp 17 placed GAR Flag Holders and Flags at the Oswegatchie Corner Cemetery in the Town of Diana honoring our Civil War Veterans. This was followed by the Memorial Day Parade in Lowville. The French Camp divided in two formations; the first were Brothers John Goloski, Bill Bamann, and Jeffrey French with Reenactor Eric Sauer marching with the American Legion, VFW, and Marine Corps veteran organizations, and the second in a truck float with SUVCW Camp sign with Brothers Rick Beirman CC, Scott French, Rick Holley, and Robert Roshia II. There was a pause in the

parade for laying the wreath at the statue by the Boy Scout and Girl Scout. Brother Bill Bamann and Eric Sauer were the guards, and Brother John Goloski and Reenactor Chuck Bunky were the escorts. The parade resumed to the Memorial Park.

At the Memorial Park, the Statue Rededication took place with Brothers John Goloski, Bill Bamann, Eric Sauer, and Chuck Bunky on the Fire Team, Brothers Scott French and Robert Rosia II were standing by in formation, and CC Rick Beirman, Jeffrey French, and Rick Holley did the ritual for rededicating the statue. The Statue Rededication had great significance for two Brothers of the French Camp, Scott and Jeffrey French. Their 3rd Great Grandfather, Luhman Carter, who was appointed as the Officer Commanding the Monument in 1882 from the Bailey GAR Post, overseen the raising of funds, was the main speaker at the ground-breaking ceremony on Memorial Day in 1883, and was a significant part of the statue dedication ceremony held on 4 July 1883.



Truck float with Camp members and SUVCW sign



Brothers Goloski, Sauer, Bamann, Bunky, & French



Watertown ceremony with Camp Commander Rick Beirman at far right

It was a great honor for the French Camp to Honor our veterans of the present to those of the past; especially our Boys in Blue. The ceremony recognized all our past veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice with an emphasis on the Civil War veterans. Over a 100 people from the community of Lowville showed up for both the Parade and the Statue Rededication Ceremony.





Color Guard at the Albany Rural Cemetery

## Memorial Day Observance

Col. Geo. L. Willard Camp 154 holds Services

Robert Keough, Camp Commander

On Memorial Day, 30 May, seven members of the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154 met at the Albany Rural Cemetery. The brothers conducted the Sons' Service at the Civil War monument.

The contingent then moved to Oakwood Cemetery in Troy and conducted the same service at the Soldier and Sailor's plot. While at Oakwood, the brothers "saluted" General Thomas's grave and Col. George L. Willard's grave, finishing with a salute at the grave of George Geer, a member of the USS Monitor's crew.

## Orders of the Department Commander - First Series

### Department Order No. 1

**1.** To the Brothers of the Department of New York, SUVCW who attended the 130th Encampment in Ithaca, NY. I wish to extend my appreciation for your support in electing me your Commander. I promise to do to my best to warrant your faith in me.

**2.** The headquarters of the Department will be located at 1602 West Ave, Middlesex, NY 14507. All correspondence can be sent to that address. E-mail can be sent to flycar@frontiernet.net. Phone communications can be made to (585) 554-3655, Fax (585) 554-3695.

**3.** I would request that all Department Officers should review their duties and obligations as outlined in the National Constitution and Regulations and the Department By-Laws.

**4.** The 131st Encampment of the Department of New York will be held May 16-18, 2014 at the RIT Inn and Conference Center, 5257 West Henrietta Rd, Henrietta, NY 14586 in Rochester, NY.

So Ordered this 8th day of May, 2013  
Robert Pugsley, Department Commander

### Department Order No. 2

**1.** At the May 4, 2013 NY Department Encampment, SUVCW held in Ithaca, NY, a resolution was passed, to wit: "that a special committee be formed pursuant to Article X Section 3 of the Bylaws of the Department of New York to consist of between one to three members to be appointed by the Department Commander whose purpose will be to complete the work begun by the aforesaid GAR & SUVCW Property and Artifacts Committee and make a final report including recommendations and policy suggestions to the 131st NY Department Encampment."

**2.** It was further resolved "that the Department GAR & SUVCW Artifacts Committee shall act in an advisory capacity to said special committee and shall assist in all respects in the completion of its task."

**3.** Pursuant to that Resolution the following Brothers are appointed to the Special Committee of the GAR and SUVCW Property and Artifacts:

Chairman: Jeffrey Albanese, PDC  
Member: Matthew Hereford, PCC.

**4.** The Committee shall present their findings and recommendations to the 131st NY Department Encampment held in Rochester, NY.

So Ordered this 1st day of June, 2013  
Robert Pugsley, Department Commander

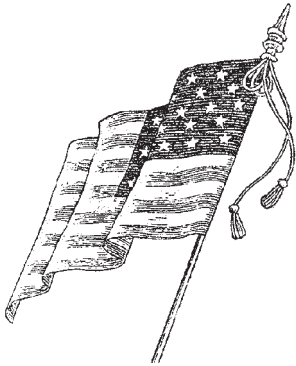


Oakwood Cemetery: Saluting the General Thomas grave, with Thomas monument in the background

# Flag of Our Country

Jeffrey Albanese, PDC, Patriotic Instructor

One hundred and fifty years ago this month the Civil War had entered its third year. The Siege of Vicksburg was in full swing and the Gettysburg Campaign was underway. 1863 was a tumultuous year in the Civil War: it was the year of the Emancipation Proclamation, the Battles of Stones River, Chancellorsville, Brandy Station, Champion Hill, Gettysburg, Chickamauga and the capture of Vicksburg, Port Hudson and Chattanooga.



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The month of June is also when we celebrate Flag Day. Adopted by the United States Congress in 1949, it

designates June 14 as Flag Day and celebrates the adoption of a resolution on that day in 1777 by the Second Continental Congress, which established the American Flag.

As Sons of Union Veterans, we believe it is our duty to respect the Flag and we state at every Camp meeting that the emblem of our Commander's station is the "Flag of our Country, the union of the Red, White and Blue, the preservation of which we have all pledged our lives."

The Flag of our country was a very important symbol to our ancestors during the Civil War. The presentation of the regimental colors, usually by some local group, was a great and solemn occasion. Being selected to serve in the Color Company was a great honor and being the color bearer, while perhaps the most dangerous position in the regiment, was one

that was sought and held with great pride. Not only did it mark the lines during battle and serve as a rallying point it was a target of the enemy. The defense of the colors during battle was fierce and its capture one of dishonor. The war is replete with examples of unfathomable acts of heroism in defense of the flag.

To understand what the American Flag meant to the union soldier I would like to quote from a selection brought to my attention by the Camp Chaplain, Barry G. O'Neill of the Colonel Ellis Camp 124, SU-VCW. It comes from a book entitled *The Bright Side of Prison Life* written in 1897 by Capt. S.A. Swiggett, of Company B, 36th Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He describes his feelings upon seeing his unit's flag shortly after he is captured by Confederate troops at the Battle of Marks Mills, Arkansas on April 25, 1864:

*The only event of the day which had the power to overcome the resolution I had made to be cheerful, despite all the horror and disaster, occurred while we were quietly standing there, awaiting the final count, when we suddenly caught sight of an approaching body of rebels bearing a lot of captured flags, among which I recognized our own, all torn and disfigured as it was, the very scars enabling the recognition.*

*We can talk lightly of a flag as being only a distinguishing mark or emblem, but its true emblematic character is not realized until some occasion arises to impress upon us what is meant by the flag of our country.*

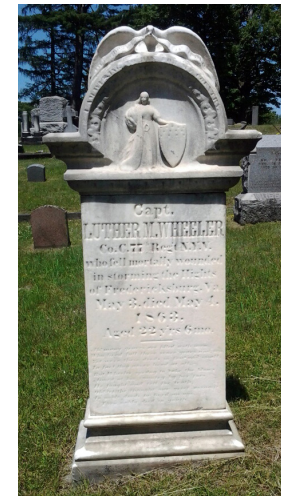
*When my gaze rested upon that shot-torn flag all memories of its associations flashed through my mind in an instant, as well as the full realization of what its possession would mean to us and what its absence signified. Words cannot express my feelings. I looked around me for a moment and, meeting the*

*eye of one our men looking at me, his countenance twitching and his eyes filled with tears, I broke down completely and sobbed like a child for a few minutes.*

*O ye men who have only looked upon our country's flag as a pretty emblem! You who only think of it as a necessary distinguishing mark among nations! And the many who never think of it as anything but a piece of bunting! Be ye once in a position where Inability to possess that strip of colored fabric means privation, loss of liberty, separation from home and friends, possible death, and you will then realize what it means to you as no language can depict.*



Photo: Theresa Furey



Capt. Luther M. Wheeler belonged to the 77th New York Volunteers, better known as the Bemis Heights Regiment, named for the Battles of Saratoga during the Revolutionary War. Wheeler died 4 May 1863 from wounds suffered at Fredericksburg. Wheeler's artistic tombstone at Greenridge Cemetery, Saratoga was no doubt made at some expense, but was in need of restoration. Through the efforts of Bro. Tim Mabee of Col. George L. Willard Camp 154, the monument is once again a fitting tribute to Capt. Wheeler.



# Final Muster



## Brother William F. Parker

David G. Caywood Camp 146 Ovid

William F. Parker, of Trumansburg, passed away at Cayuga Ridge on Saturday, January 5, 2013, at the age of 87. Bill was born in Trumansburg on April 23, 1925, graduating from Trumansburg High School. Bill began a life-long love of cooking as he worked as a Short Order Cook for a few years before entering the US Army in 1949. He received an Honorable Discharge from the Army on October 21, 1954.

With pride for having served his country during the Korean Conflict, Bill became very active in the Trumansburg American Legion Post #770. In addition to the leadership he provided while Legion Commander from 1969–1971, Bill also served as County and District Commander, Post and County Adjutant, Post and County Boys State Chair and, with much enthusiasm, he attended several national conventions as a District Delegate.

Bill was also interested in Civil War history and was an active member of the David G. Caywood Camp 146 in Ovid, and served for many years as the Camp's Secretary. He often talked about a memorable trip that he took to Gettysburg with his niece.

Bill was employed by Cornell University for many years. He was a member of the First Baptist Church and the Trumansburg Senior Citizens.

He was a good friend to many, and we know how much he will be missed.



## Brother James J. Downey

Moses Baldwin Camp 544 Hempstead

James J. Downey died March 9 at his home, following a seven-year battle with cancer. He was 66 years old. A 56-year Riverhead resident, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy after graduating from Riverhead High School in 1965 and served four tours of duty in Vietnam, earning the Purple Heart, Navy Commendation Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device, Navy Combat Action Ribbon, Vietnam Honor Medal 2nd Class, Vietnam Training Service Medal 2nd Class, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal and National Defense Service Medal. He was the honor man of his company at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in 1965.



He served aboard the Earl B. Hall Destroyer Escort and the USS Independence. He was a member of the "Brown Water Navy," patrolling the Perfume and other rivers of Vietnam on naval river patrol boats, and saw action in the Battle of Hue during the Tet Offensive. He worked with the 3rd Marine Division at I-Corps and served on the staff of Admiral "Bud" Zumwalt in Saigon in 1969 for the Vietnamization program. He also lived among and learned the language of the South Vietnamese people. He attained the rank of GMG3 Petty Officer and was honorably discharged on June 29, 1971.

A lifelong student of history, and his hobbies included participating as a re-enactor of the French

and Indian War, the American Revolutionary War and World War II. He formed a re-enactment group called Captain Thomas Terry's Company, New York Provincial Militia 1756–1762.

Brother Downey joined the SUVCW in 1999, claiming his right to membership through his ancestor, Capt. John J. Downey, 11th NYVI, Co. D and 73rd NYVI, Co. I.



## Brother Frank Swaney

Phineas Catlin Camp 341 Odessa

Frank L. Swaney, of Interlaken, passed away at home on Monday, December 31, 2012 at the age of 58. Frank was born in Ithaca on May 4, 1954. After obtaining his Associate's Degree from Finger Lakes Community College, Frank began working as a carpet installer for Carpet Bazaar in Ithaca. In 2007, due to his leukemia diagnosis, Frank retired after 35 years of service. Frank loved carpentry and completed many custom projects around his home and restored many antiques. Truly a gifted artist in many areas, Frank would draw incredibly detailed sketches. He worked for countless hours in the yard growing many varieties of vegetables and caring for multiple flower beds. His family and friends will deeply miss joining him around the bonfire to hear him sing and play guitar.

He had been a member of Phineas Catlin Camp 341 since 2010. He has joined his ancestor, Pvt. Samuel Swaney of the 7th Ohio Vol. Cavalry, Co. D.



# Department of New York

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

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**SR. VICE COMMANDER**  
George Weinmann PCC

**JR. VICE COMMANDER**  
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John P. Portanova, PCC

**WEBMASTER**  
Robert M. Paul, Jr. PCC

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 2013

# THE VOLUNTEER

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