



SUMMER/FALL 2015

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

THE VOLUNTEER

From the Commander

Looking forward, reviewing the past

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

Dear Fellow Brothers, I hope and trust this summer has found you and yours well. It's truly an honor to serve you as your Dept. Commander on the eve of the important sesquicentennial of the founding of the GAR.

I'd like to first introduce myself to those I have not yet had the privilege of meeting. I am a PCC of the Col. George L. Willard Camp No. 154 serving from 2006-2010, a dual member of the Cpl. James Tanner Camp No. 134 and the Charles Devens Jr. Camp No. 10 of S.C. I have been a member since 2002, owing my membership to my great-great grandfather, Artificer, Daniel S. Pratt, Co. G 1st NYVE, Ziba-Hamilton-Brown GAR Post No. 15 Maryland-Schenevus, N.Y. I chaired and organized the Col. Elmer Ellsworth Sesquicentennial Event in 2011 and since then have been actively involved with my camp with most notably preserving the GAR Room in Albany.

I look forward to working with you on camp events and projects this year.

LOOKING FORWARD

Beginning my term as Department Commander, I have an optimism and eagerness to see great things happen this year! Some of my main goals include efforts to preserve our archives, getting our monuments registered with the national organization, improving the condition of our monuments in the future with a grant program, increasing membership, and commemorating the GAR Sesquicentennial grandly.

Did you know our Department has only six monuments registered with the National Organization? The Dept. Memorials Officer, David Dziejewski is working on correcting this with a Civil War Memorials Book project featuring surveys of the monuments which will benefit our Department. I urge Graves and Memorials Officers to reply to the recent e-mails and send in surveys of your local monuments with pictures using the National Form through our Dept. Any Brother can participate and assist their Camp Officers.

As 2015 nears its end with the closing of the Civil War sesquicentennial, we must keep in mind the upcoming anniversary of the founding of the GAR and the Sesquicentennial events and projects that will be done locally in April 2016. Through camp efforts with local events, we can spur the commemoration of the GAR Sesquicentennial. With that in mind there are

a few Department projects I am researching to commemorate the sesquicentennial.

The Department maintains a significant archive of records and artifacts from the Civil War and the GAR. Preserving this archive is of utmost importance, and establishing a permanent home for it is critical. I strongly urge all camps that can make a donation to this critical archival effort to please do so. We need to preserve our archives; your donation would go a long way toward the conservation and preservation of these artifacts.

continued



Members of the Department of New York at the 2015 National Encampment in Virginia

In an effort to assist camps with the costs of preserving old monuments and starting new monuments, I would like to institute a "Grants for Camps Monuments Program" in which camps could apply for a grant from the Department for qualifying projects. I am exploring ways in which to implement such a program effectively and would welcome input and ideas.

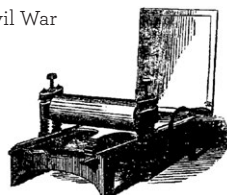
Increasing membership is vital to our organization, and so I would also like to institute a N.Y. Department Aide Award Program that recognizes each brother for their significant efforts made for recruitment. The brother would be made an honorary aide of the Department much like the National Program and given a suitable certificate to frame. Whereas this award would be given to all those who meet the requirements, this would supplement the Oliver Clarke Plaque for Individual Recruiting which would still be awarded to the brother with the highest recruitment record for the year. Research into appropriate requirements for such an award is currently being done.

Lastly, I think it is important that we work more closely with our sisters in the allied orders. We must all share in the good work of our allied orders and all work together. I encourage camps to communicate often with the allied orders and work together on projects throughout the year with them.

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

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At the upcoming Mid-Year meeting we will be brainstorming ideas for events and projects. Please make every effort to attend this meeting on October 24th in Bridgewater, N.Y. We are very grateful to have the Homer Searle Camp as our gracious hosts.

We have some other exciting pending projects in process that I hope to share in the next *Volunteer*.

A RECAP OF THE 132nd NEW YORK DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT

The Department of New York remains strong with 18 camps across the state. We have 537 members in good standing and are growing with 11 new members since our May encampment.

Our 132nd Encampment was held on May 1st-3rd, 2015 at Saratoga Springs, N.Y. and we were honored once again to have in attendance Bro. PCinC Danny Wheeler and special guest COA Member, Bro. PDC Ed Norris. There were 33 delegates in attendance and two guests.

The Dept. Secretary reports that the following Dept. Awards were issued at this year's encampment:

The Rippey Award

Bro. Matthew Hereford, PCC

Camp Patriotic Awards

Sydney Camp #41, Weber #44, Willard #154,
Caitlin #341

Patriotic Instructors Award

Capt. Oliver Tilden Camp #26

Newsletter Award

Homer Searle Camp #114

Dept. Musician Award

Bro. Arthur Kirmss

Archibald Gracie Award

Capt. Oliver Tilden Camp #26 for the U.S. Grant event

continued



In May, **John Portanova PCC** went to over eleven 5th-grade classes in the Levittown School District, including the Lee Road Elementary School shown here, to teach a history lesson that included the history of Memorial Day, the School of the Infantry Soldier, and the history of the Grand Army of the Republic. John has been going to schools and teaching as a living historian for the past 23 years. He has been a member of the **Capt. Oliver Tilden Camp #26** since 1998.



The following actions were taken at our Department Encampment:

- » A Memorandum of Understanding between the Dept. and the Greenpoint Monitor Museum would be drafted.
- » Passed a Bylaw amendment related to Article 3, Section 5 regarding the Mid-Year meeting.

At the evening Allied Orders Banquet the Charter for the Judson Hicks Camp was presented, and the Department's 1st Dr. Mary Walker award was presented to Sister Beatrice Greenwalt for her years of service to the Dept.

A BRIEF RECAP OF THE 2015 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

We had a good representation with a delegation of five brothers in attendance at the National Encampment at Richmond in August. This was a good opportunity to for camaraderie with brothers from all over the country. Those attending were myself, Bro. Treasurer Jeffrey Albanese, PDC; Bro. National Quartermaster - Dept. Counselor, Danny Wheeler, PCinC; Bro. CC George Weinmann, PDC and Bro. George Shadman, PDC.

To report on the encampment the following major items were passed:

- » Dual members are to be counted in their primary Camp in the total membership of each Department.
- » Supplemental Ancestors: A member in good standing may report a qualifying supplemental ancestor with his Camp secretary using the current application form, and printing the word "Supplemental" at the top of the form, and shall pay the National application fee (\$5). Department application fees may apply at the discretion of each Department.
- » The job description of the Camp and Department Historian was updated.

- » The job description of the GAR Records Officer was approved.
- » International Camps will be allowed.
- » There will be no longer a cost for SUVCW camps and departments or ROTC/JROTC units for the initial award of the SUVCW ROTC Award to a cadet. The SUVCW Form 7 has been revised to reflect this important change. Additionally applications of the Form 7 submitted on or after January 1, 2017, must be submitted electronically.
- » Updates to Memorial Grants Preservation Committee and Memorial Grant Program - The maximum grant will be \$2,000, and 75% of funds remaining at the end of the year may be disbursed to grant recipients or to NPS, DOD, DVA for the preservation of Civil War monuments.

National Elections

The following Brothers were elected:

Commander-in-Chief

Bro. Eugene Mortorff

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Bro. Don Martin

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Bro. Mark Day (N.Y. native and former resident)

Council of Administration

Bro. Don Shaw (re-elected); Bro. John McNulty

At the evening allied orders banquet Sister Betty Wheeler was nationally honored with the Dr. Mary Walker Award for her years of service to the Sons.

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.

2015-16 Orders of the Department Commander

Department Order #1 Establishes Commander LeMay's command of the Department of New York, reports financial status, and other matters. 11 May 2015

Department Order #2 Suspends General Alexander S. Diven Camp #77. 15 May 2015

Department Order #3 Encourages Camps & Brothers to participate in Memorial Day services. 22 May 2015

Department Order #4 Announces officers & committees of the Department; congratulates the Sisters in the Allied Orders on their elections. 07 June 2015

Department Order #5 Encourages Camps and Brothers to celebrate Flag Day. 08 June 2015

Department Order #6 Requests Camps & Brothers to take part in Independence Day celebrations. 01 July 2015

Department Order #7 Announces the adoption and posting of By-Laws approved by the 2015 Department Encampment. 08 July 2015

Department Order #8 Commends Willard Camp #154 for its accomplishments regarding the restoration and care of Major General Thomas's grave. Announces a contribution from the Dept. Commander's Discretionary Fund and encourages Brothers to assist in that effort. 13 Aug 2015

Department Order #9 Calls a Mid-Year meeting and asks for mid-year reports from Department Officers, Department Committees, Department Special Committees and Camp Commanders. 13 August 2015

Department Order #10 Requests all Camps submit camp newsletters and other materials to Bro. Donald Zeilman, the Dept. *Volunteer* editor. It also appoints the Dept. Encampment Organization and Planning Guide Committee and re-appoints the Greenpoint Monitor Museum Committee. 04 September 2015

Woodcock Reinternment

French Camp #17 leads Allied Orders at event

Jeffrey French PDC

Pvt. Elisha Woodcock and his wife Mary were buried on their family farm in 1905 and 1898 respectively. They would not have contemplated that their graves would be in a middle of a cow pasture with one of the headstones being damage and trampled on by the cows. The Talcottville Cemetery Association and the Lewis County Historical Society organized to relocate the brave Civil War Veteran and his wife to Talcottville Cemetery where their graves will be maintained and cared for. The Association President Steven Fox contacted the **Walter H. French Camp #17** to help with the grant and donations to get them relocated. The SUVCW National Memorial Funds donated \$500 and the French Camp \$200 to make this event a reality.

Pvt. Elisha Woodcock at age 35 years from Lewis County enlisted at Boonville, N.Y. to serve three years, and mustered in as private, Co. B, 97th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment on March 15, 1862. The 97th NY was quartered at Fort Corcoran as part of Gen. Wadsworth's command, Military District of Washington, from March, 1862 until



May 1862, when it was assigned to the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, Department of the Rappahannock and moved into Virginia, where it occupied various posts in the neighborhood of the Rappahannock river. In late June 1862, the 97th NY was assigned to the 1st Brigade under BG Abram Duryee, 2nd Division (BG James Ricketts), 3rd Corps of MG John Pope's Army of Virginia. The 97th NY was under fire for the first time at Cedar Mountain as Rickett's Division arrived late in the day, and suffered just one man slightly wounded. In the subsequent Second Manassas campaign, 16 August–2 September 1862, the 97th NY lost 111 in killed, wounded and missing. On 12 September 1862, the regiment, as part of Duryee's 1st Brigade, Rickett's 2nd Division was assigned to the 1st Corps, Army of the Potomac and fought at South Mountain and Antietam, suffering in the latter battle the most severe loss of any battle of its service—24 killed, 74 wounded and 9 missing. Here, more than one half of the Regiment was killed and wounded in less than an hour after the engagement commenced; yet men never displayed more coolness and determination. Not a man was captured; and, when relieved, though under a galling fire, the Regiment retired in good order. Pvt. Woodcock was discharged for disability, December 10, 1862, at hospital, Washington, D.C.

On July 11, 2015, the SUVCW New York Department Commander Raymond LeMay III, Walter H. French Camp #17, Col. George L. Willard Camp #154, Homer-Searle Camp #114, NY DUVCW, NY ASUVCW, Talcottville Cemetery Association, Lewis County Historical Society, and the Society of 1812 performed the burial ritual for Pvt. Elisha Woodcock and his wife Mary. The great-great nephew, Leonard Woodcock, received the American Flag from DC LeMay during the burial ceremony. The Sons of Union Veterans performed the burial from the service book published by the Grand Army of the Republic in 1899. French Camp #17 CC Bob Roshia II escorted the descendents to the grave to place the wreaths and rose. Willard Camp #154 CC Leo McGuire played the bugle for TAPS bringing the ceremony to an end. Homer-Searle Camp #114 Chad Miller read the service of Pvt. Elisha Woodcock. PDP Dorothy Prentiss from the DUVCW led their ceremonial portion and DP Hope Parker from the ASUVCW led their ceremonial portion. It took the efforts of the Allied Order to successfully perform the reburial this Civil War Veteran and his wife. It was a great day to pay homage to a brave soldier who is now laid to rest. The Allied Order was humbled and honored to have been part of this once-in-a-lifetime event living our motto Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.



New GAR Highway Signs

Worden Camp #150 raises \$300 to furnish signs
Matt Hereford CC, Dept. GAR Highway Officer

On April 25th 2015, two new US Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Highway signs, donated by the **Admiral John L. Worden Camp #150**, were dedicated at a special ceremony remembering the Death of President Lincoln. The event was held at the Lincoln Depot Museum in Peekskill, N.Y. The signs were graciously accepted by Mayor Frank Catalina, and will be erected on the US Route 6 GAR Highway that passes through the city.

The John L. Worden Camp #150, Sons of Union Veterans raised \$300 to purchase the signs and donated them to the City of Peekskill.



L-R: Matt Hereford, Dept. GAR Highway Officer and Worden Camp 150 Commander; John Testa, President, The Lincoln Depot Museum; Bruce Paulson, PCC, Worden Camp; and Frank Goderre, City of Peekskill Historian

G.A.R. Anniversary

April 2016 marks the 150th anniversary
Jerry Orton PDC, Dept. Historian

April 6, 2016 is the 150th anniversary of the Grand Army of the Republic. April 3, 2017 is the 150th of the New York Department, GAR.

Something has to be done to mark the occasion. The membership is being asked what do they think would be appropriate. The Dutchman is the symbol for the New York Department. Maybe a challenge coin with the GAR symbol on observe and the dutchman on the reverse. The cost would not be much.

Who was the first to volunteer for service in the Civil War?

There are a number of claimants to the distinction. One was Charles Franklin Rand. He was awarded a medal by the State of New York: "The Order of the First Volunteer." He enlisted in Co. K 12th New York Volunteers. While at the Eagle Hotel in Batavia on May 13, 1863 when Lincoln's telegram was read calling for 75,000 volunteers. His name was first on the list that was send to Washington, D.C. 10 minutes later.

He was also a recipient of the Medal of Honor for action on July 18, 1861. The citation read in part, "Remained in action when a part of his regiment broke in disorder, jointed another company and fought with it through the remainder of the engagement."



The Medal of Honor was awarded on October 23, 1897.

Rand was wounded in the Battle of Gaines Mills, captured and exchanged after being in Libby Prison. He was discharged a captain of the 101st NY Volunteers.

He became a physician, after graduation from Georgetown University. Rand died on October 13, 1908 and he and his wife, Louise, are buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

The medal of the The Order of the First Volunteer is a gilt six armed cross with 25 colored stones in a spiral pattern. Fifteen years ago, in November 2000, the badge sold at auction for \$4,300.

Source: "The Veterans" Vol. 17, No. 3 Jan.-March 2004. Article by Jeffery B. Floyd. Page 196 of Medal of Honor Recipients 1863-1978, Government Printing Office, 1979.

Events Calendar on Website

Send your event information for inclusion

Robert M. Paul, Jr. PCC, Dept. Webmaster

The Department website now includes an events calendar to keep brothers informed of events around the state. Previously, there was no formalized process for camps to publicize their activities across the Department, and this calendar is intended to correct that. You can see the calendar by going to the department web site (<http://suvchw.org/ny/WebsiteIndex.htm>) and then clicking on "Events Calendar" on the web site index. To add an event, send an e-mail to Department Webmaster Bob Paul at <bob@madison-atlantic.com>. Include the event date, the event name, and a brief description.

Monitor Marker Unveiled

Brooklyn site now part of historic trail

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's USS Monitor National Marine Sanctuary (NOAA), The Greenpoint Monitor Museum (Museum) and **Oliver Tilden Camp #26**, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) have been working together since 1997 to keep alive the memory of the Civil War ironclad USS Monitor in Greenpoint, Brooklyn where the USS Monitor was built. The Museum received its New York State Charter from the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York in 1996. Although without a Museum building at this time, in 2003 land was donated to the Museum along the launch site of the USS Monitor in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. The Museum has a classroom in PS110 the Monitor School where school children visit and learn about the Civil War, the USS Monitor and Greenpoint's history.

On May 29, 2015 NOAA unveiled a USS Monitor Trail Marker on the Museum's land at in Greenpoint at the Bushwick Inlet and the East River. The USS Monitor was built and launched along this site. This



is a historic waterfront event for Greenpoint, Brooklyn and New York in that NOAA is creating a trail linking the historic sites of the USS Monitor in New York, Virginia, and North Carolina.

Dignitaries in attendance were Tad Campbell, Commander-in-Chief, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Rachele Campbell, National President, Auxiliary, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Eileen Sleckman, President, New York Department, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Thomas Markers Dedicated

Signs direct visitors to Thomas gravesite

David M. Dziejewski, PCC

As part of the Memorial Day events at Oakwood Cemetery, the **Colonel George L. Willard Camp #154**, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War dedicated the new signs directing visitors to the General Thomas gravesite on the Kellogg Family plot.

At the Thomas gravesite Mr. Michael Barrett, Director of the Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway, presented introductory comments on the life and career of Gen. Thomas. Camp Commander Leo McGuire offered the opening to original Order #11 describing Decoration Day. Department Commander Ray LeMay III added remarks recognizing the Willard Camp's work as well as the Department of NY's history of involvement with the project.

Finally project liaison, Brother Dziejewski, made dedicatory comments that included a brief reiteration of the relationship between the Oakwood Cemetery and the SUVCW. Initially the Department of New York adopted the gravesite. However, work began in earnest when Willard Camp also was able to adopt the site with the support of Department Order #6, by then



Commander Albanese (2012), and the completion of a Memorandum of Understanding among the Cemetery, Friends of Oakwood Cemetery and Willard Camp in 2013. Attendees were escorted by the U.S. Marine veterans of the Leathernecks Motorcycle Club and the 125th NY Volunteer Infantry reenacting group closed the ceremony with a musket firing salute.

With the permission of Oakwood Cemetery, Willard Camp also announced that the next project for the gravesite will be the assessment of the beech tree that has threatened the grave markers of the Kellogg plot, the Thomas monument and the surrounding cast iron fence. It is likely that the tree will be removed.



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Daryl Verstrete, Jr. CC,

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Christopher Hosford

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Robert M. Paul, Jr. PCC



At the National Encampment, Sister Betty Wheeler, Aux. Member received the Dr. Mary Walker National Award, the highest award given to an Allied member, for her dedication to the Sons of the Union Veterans. Her dedication to the Order over the last 32 years has always been for the good of the Order and the Department of New York.

Left: Betty and Danny Wheeler, PCinC