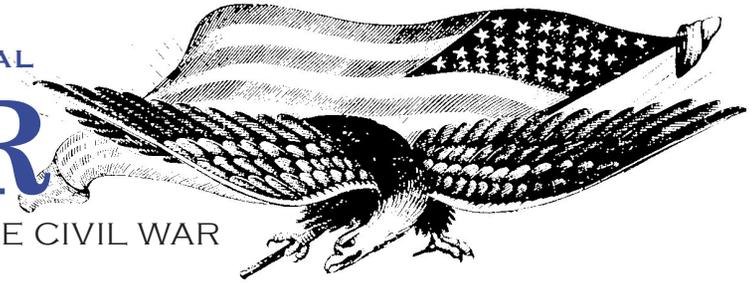


# THE VOLUNTEER

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



## Service for Charles A. Orr

Weber Camp N°44 holds rededication

William Alan Christen II, Camp Graves Registrar

On October 25, the Brothers of Colonel John B. Weber Camp N°44 held a formal service rededicating the tombstone of Comrade Charles Alvin Orr in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York. At fourteen years old, Charles Orr attempted unsuccessfully to enlist in three different units after his older Brother, Robert, died at Fredericksburg on December 13, 1862. Ultimately he enlisted as a Private in Company G of the 187th Regiment, New



1st Row (l-to-r) Br. Ray L. Ball, Luke Eames, Mike Erb, Parker Ball, Noah Luthart, Br. Ray B. Ball  
2nd Row (l-to-r) Br. Jim Pace, Brian Seibel



Brother Rev. Tom Himmelsbach

York Volunteer Infantry, on September 29, 1864. He was mustered into the 187th on October 13, 1864. Private Orr served continuously with the regiment until he was mustered out on July 1, 1865 at seventeen years of age. As a result of bravery during his service, Private Orr was awarded the Medal of Honor on March 22, 1898 for distinguished gallantry in battle. He and two others went out under heavy fire and rescued several wounded members of their regiment during the Battle of Hatcher's Run, Virginia on October 27, 1864.

Charles Orr was a lifetime member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He was Commander of Buffalo's Chapin Post N°2 for twenty-one years. In 1886, Mr. Orr was elected Senior Vice-Commander of the New York State Department. He was elected the Commander of the Department, during the June 1901 State and held the office until June 1902. He organized the Grand Army of the Republic for the funeral of President McKinley as well as the orga-

*continued*



Christopher Jacobs, Erie County Clerk at the podium; Br. Tom Schobert, President Buffalo Civil War Roundtable (r.) Andy Finley, 49th NY (l.)

## THE 132nd DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT TO BE HELD AT SARATOGA SPRINGS

The 132nd New York Department, SUVCW Encampment will be held on May 1–3, 2015 at the Holiday Inn, 232 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, New York. The business portion of the Encampment will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2015.

Additional events: Friday evening Campfire program, Allied Orders Luncheon, and Allied Orders Banquet. Details will be posted on the New York Department Website, including online registration.



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Donald G. Zeilman  
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nization's involvement during the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, both of which occurred under his command.

Mr. Orr was appointed United States Pension Agent for the thirty-seven counties in Western New York. He disbursed more the \$7,000,000 (in 1913 dollars) or more than \$167,000,000 (in 2014 dollar) annually amongst the 47,000 pensioners. Mr. Orr served efficiently for sixteen years as the pension agent until the office closed in 1913.

In summary, Mr. Orr was among the men who achieved an enviable prominence in public circles in New York State during the late 1800s and early 1900s. This is why the Brothers chose to honor Charles Orr's memory as a Civil War veteran and Medal of Honor recipient as part of the 150th remembrance of the Civil War.

The graveside ceremony was adapted from a 1917 service used by the Grand Army of the Republic to dedicate a member's headstone. Participating in the service were Brothers Ray B. Ball, Ray L. Ball, Bill Christen, Dave Demmerley, Mike Erb, Tom Himmelsbach, Jim Pace, Tom Schobert, and Jake Streit.

The Union Volunteers Fife & Drum Corps, under the leadership of Brother Jim Pace, played the marching music from the assembly area to the grave site. Brother Ray B. Ball was the Officer-of-the-Day responsible for introductions and explanations. The Guest Speaker was Christopher L. Jacobs, County Clerk for the County of Erie, New York. The keynote address was delivered by Brother Tom Schobert in his capacity as President of the Buffalo Civil War Roundtable. Brother Ray L. Ball played TAPS during the service. The ceremonial salute was done by a

rifle squad comprised of re-enactors from the United States Battalion of Engineers, Company A. Brother Mike Erb carried the colors while the members of the United States Battalion of Engineers, Company A provided the Color Guard. Brother Erb assumed the duties as the Tomb Guard during the service. Flowers were placed at Charles Orr's tombstone by representatives of the Lodema Strickland Tent 56, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the P. G. Cook Camp 223, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Minister Tom Himmelsbach offered the Benediction to close the service.



(l-to-r) Br. Tom Schobert, Br. Ray B. Ball, Abraham Lincoln (portrayed by Dave Kreutz, Andy Finley (49th NY)

Photos courtesy Debbie Himmelsbach

## Signs for Thomas Grave

Willard Camp N°154 continues work at site

By Robert Keough, PCC

The first big step in the Major General Thomas project, including the Kellogg family plot, has been completed. All of the signs directing visitors to the grave site, and the sign at the grave site, have been installed. The signs arrived from the manufacturer in September. After Mr. Bernie Vogel, Oakwood Cemetery Administrator, determined their placement and Brother David Dziewulski toured the chosen locations, the staff at Oakwood Cemetery undertook the task of installing them. There are five signs directing visitors to the site and one at the grave site. They were designed to look like and have the same colors as the Uncle Sam signs. Both use New York State designated paint colors for roadside historical markers. This also helps to keep a uniform look at the cemetery. A dedication will be held at the cemetery in the Spring of 2015. Visitors will now be able to easily find the General Thomas grave site with the new signage.



At one location visitors now have side-by-side directional signs to both the Uncle Sam and General Thomas grave sites.



## Headstone Dedication

Tilden Camp's Philip Koether's ancestor  
George J. Weinmann, PCC, Dept. Commander

On September 6, 2014, a Sons headstone Dedication for Bugler and Band Leader, Gottlieb Hoyer, 9th New Jersey Vol. was performed at Prospect Hill Cemetery, Omaha, Nebraska. Bro. Philip Koether, a Tilden Camp N° 26 member arranged the dedication with Nebraska Sons and Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War who performed the ceremony. Gottlieb Hoyer is Bro. Philip Koether's great-great-grandfather. It is gratifying to see camps from different state departments working together:

“After 139 years, a civil war veteran buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery got a grave stone. Gottlieb Hoyer was a bugler in the civil war. His 2nd-great grandson, Philip Koether, placed a flag at his grave

site on Saturday. ‘It’s overwhelming in the moment,’ he said. ‘On the other hand it’s taken quite a few years to come to this point. It’s the coming together of a lot of research and finally wanting to get that stone.’

Koether said he spent over 20 years researching Hoyer and trying to find where he was buried. As a descendant, he was one of the only people that could have the stone placed.

The Sons of Union Veterans helped with the event. They played taps on the bugle and had a gun salute. They also placed wreaths, a rose, and a bugle on Hoyer's grave.

‘It’s closure in one sense, but it’s also opening of opportunities for all of his descendants,’ Koether said.

The cemetery has over 400 other unmarked graves that they are trying to mark.”



## Marker for N.Y. Veteran

Private David McQueen of Fulton County  
Bob Kurek, Sheridan Camp N°2, Dept. of Illinois

On Sunday September 14, 2014 the P.H. Sheridan Camp 2, Dept. of Illinois, SUVCW formally dedicated a new marker for Private David McQueen, Company D, 32nd New York Infantry at the Wheatland Presbyterian Cemetery, Plainfield, Illinois. Records indicate he was from Fulton County, New York, Town of Perth.



Kenneth Pennington, the great-grandson of Private McQueen being escorted by Past Dept. Commander Steven Westlake.

# Orders of the Department Commander—First Series

## Department Order No.6

1. The 132nd New York Department, SUVCW Encampment will be held on May 1, 2 & 3, 2015 at the Holiday Inn, 232 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. The business portion of the Encampment will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2015. More details on the Encampment will be posted on the New York Department Website.
2. At the May 3, 2014, 131st New York Department Encampment, SUVCW held in Rochester, New York, amendments to the Department By-Laws were approved by the membership. New York Department Commander George J. Weinmann, PCC and at the time Commander-in-Chief Kenneth Freshly signed and approved the Department By-Laws, therefore according to Article XVI, By-Laws, Section 2, the new By-Laws go into immediate effect at the approval of the Commander-in-Chief. They are known as the By-Laws of the Department of New York, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.
3. All Brothers of the New York Department are reminded that the current By-Laws that were adopted at the May 2014 Encampment are posted on our Department website for review. All Department and Camp Officers should study the Department By-Laws and the Constitution and Regulations of our Order. It is very important that you follow regulations and know your job responsibilities.
4. On May 7, 2014, I issued Department Order #1, I reappointed Donald G. Zeilman as the Department Signals Officer and the Editor of the Department Newsletter "The Volunteer." The Newsletter will be

published on the Department Website on or about August 1, on or about December 1, on or about April 1 in accordance to the Department Bylaws. Editor Donald G. Zeilman is in the process of publishing the Winter 2014 issue of "The Volunteer." Please send him your camp newsletters, stories, photos, camp activities or news articles that can be used for the newsletter. His email address is [dgzeilman@gmail.com](mailto:dgzeilman@gmail.com). His mailing address is 1104 Success Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212.

So Ordered this 17th day of November 2014  
George J. Weinmann, Department Commander

## Department Order No.7

1. By virtue of the power and authority vested in me as New York Department Commander, I am hereby requesting that all Department Officers, elected and appointed, along with Department Committees, Department Special Committees and Camp Commanders submit their mid-year Reports. Note, Department Colorbearer, Guide, Guard and Musician are exempt from this order. It is important that you file a report with the department. The reports should be brief, but concise with information on your activities. The department will use the reports to see how we are doing for the betterment of our order and for the upcoming encampment. The reports will also be used at a mid-year meeting when called and authorized by the Department Commander. Reports should be sent to the Department Commander by e-mail or by US Mail with a copy to the Department Secretary. The reports should be received on or before December 15, 2014.

*continued*

Copies of the mid-year reports will be available at the 132nd NY Department Encampment in Saratoga Springs, New York.

**2.** At the May 3, 2014, 131st New York Department Encampment, SUVCW held in Rochester, N.Y., a resolution was passed by the membership: “a special committee be formed pursuant to Article X Committees, Section 3 of the By-laws of the Department of New York” to form a “Proceedings Committee” appointed by the Department Commander. The department is looking for two or three brothers to help collect reports from the membership for the missing department proceedings for the years 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 encampments.

The purpose of the “Proceedings Committee” is to compile a proceedings record of the department activities for the years 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 that were lost. The proceedings will be separated by the years mentioned above. The types of records that will be requested, but not limited to, from the membership are Department Officers and Department Committee and Special Committee reports as well as Camp Commander reports. The committee shall make a report on their progress including recommendations and suggestions to the 132nd NY Department Encampment in Saratoga Springs, New York.

**3.** It is now time to reflect back in time when Abraham Lincoln wrote the Proclamation below and when our Civil War ancestors celebrated Thanksgiving on a battlefield, in a camp, on a ship in port or out at sea. Many families celebrated Thanksgiving without their loved ones at their side due to the tragedies of war. Many Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Revenue Cutter Service men were homesick. Many months and sometimes years went by before they saw their loved ones again. At this

time, we give special thanks to our Civil War ancestors and to all that gave the ultimate sacrifice in all wars to help keep us safe and free today.

*Washington, D.C., October 3, 1863*

*By the President of the United States of America.  
A Proclamation.*

*The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of free-*

*dom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.*

*Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.*

*By the President: Abraham Lincoln*

*William H. Seward, Secretary of State*

*continued*

As Department Commander and on behalf of the New York Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a safe holiday season!

So ordered this 26th day of November 2014  
George J. Weinmann, Department Commander

## Department Order No.8

1. Pursuant to Article III, Section 5 of the Department of New York By-laws, the Department Commander is authorized to call a Mid-Year Meeting at some centrally located point for the purpose of 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.

No funds of the Department may be disbursed at the Mid-Year Meeting and the Department shall be in no way responsible or liable for the traveling expenses of anyone attending the Mid-Year Meeting.

Over the years the attendance to the mid-year meetings has been low or were canceled due to the inclement weather and many factors such as the distance to travel, holidays, cost of the trip, etc. The last few months I have been contemplating on having a mid-year meeting. I have decided not to call a mid-year meeting this year.

It is very important that the department be monitored throughout the year. Since we are not having a mid-year meeting, I am therefore again requesting that all Department Officers, elected and appointed, along with Department Committees, Department Special Committees and Camp Commanders submit

their mid-year Reports if they have not done so already. Department Color bearer, Guide, Guard and Musician are exempt from this order. Reports should be sent to the Department Commander by e-mail or by US Mail with a copy to the Department Secretary.

The reports should be brief, but concise with information on your activities. The department will use the reports to see how we are doing for the betterment of our order and for the upcoming encampment.

Some New York Department mid-year reports have not been received. All New York Department mid-year reports were due on December 15, 2014. See my Department Order #7, number 1, dated November 26, 2014.

Copies of the mid-year reports will be available at the 132nd NY Department Encampment in Saratoga Springs, New York.

So Ordered this 18th day of January 2015  
George J. Weinmann, Department Commander

## Department Order No.9

1. At the 129th New York Department Encampment, a special committee was formed for a five year duration pursuant to Article X, section 3 of the New York Department By-laws known as the Greenpoint Monitor Museum Committee. Said committee shall consist of the Chairman of the Department Legislation Committee, who shall serve as chairperson of the Committee, the Department Memorials Officer and another member who shall be appointed by the Department Commander to serve for the duration of the committee. The Committee shall be charged with promoting support

for the preservation of the U.S.S. Monitor site and the creation of the Greenpoint Monitor Museum both within the Department, other Departments of the Order and at the national level of the SUVCW. In addition, the Committee shall be charged with promoting preservation of the site and the construction of the museum at the local, state and federal levels of government. In addition, a copy of this resolution shall appear on the Department website: [suvchw.org/ny/Resolutions2012/GREENPOINT.pdf](http://suvchw.org/ny/Resolutions2012/GREENPOINT.pdf)

Pursuant to the resolution to form the special committee known as the Greenpoint Monitor Museum Committee, I have appointed Brother Paul F. Ellis-Graham as chairman of the Special Committee known as "Greenpoint Monitor Museum Committee." I also appoint Brothers Raymond B. Wheaton, Arthur P. Kirmss, Mark Goret, James F. Bond and Charles Lirio.

On January 30th, 2015, on the 153rd Anniversary of the Launching of the USS Monitor in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, N.Y., a special meeting is scheduled to take place at the Brooklyn Borough President's Office in Brooklyn, N.Y. between the Brooklyn Borough President, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), The Greenpoint Monitor Museum, Oliver Tilden Camp #26, SUVCW, public officials and members of some local organizations and schools.

The Brooklyn Borough President's Office meeting agenda—NOAA will be giving a presentation on NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries and in particular the USS Monitor National Marine Sanctuary. NOAA's partnership with The Greenpoint Monitor Museum and the importance of establishing the Museum on its donated land.

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Establishment of the USS Monitor Trail, which will include a NOAA marker on the Museum's land in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. The marker will describe the history of the building and launching of the USS Monitor at the historic location. The unveiling of the Marker will take place on May 29, 2015 with an all-day History Fair event to follow.

The proposed eminent domain threat on the Greenpoint Monitor Museum's land that was donated in 2003 by Motiva Enterprises for the establishment of a USS Monitor Museum on its land.

Conceptual renderings prepared by AECOM that show the development of the Museum's land with public waterfront access, raised elevation for flood

control, land stabilization, living shoreline, dock for NOAA's research/education vessel with a boardwalk through a living shoreline with historic panels.

NOAA assigned The Greenpoint Monitor Museum to assist them in locating historic sites throughout New York State that have a USS Monitor connection to be considered for additional USS Monitor Trail Markers. Oliver Tilden Camp #26, SUVCW, will also provide input in finding possible historic locations to place USS Monitor Trail Markers.

The Committee shall present a report at the 132nd New York Department Encampment in Saratoga Springs, New York.

So ordered this 28th day of January 2015  
George J. Weinmann, Department Commander

## Remembrance Day 2014

Annual event honors Civil War soldiers

The annual Remembrance Day observances in Gettysburg, Penn. were established by the Sons of Union Veterans.

On November 19, 1946, the Gettysburg Address anniversary date was formally designated as "Dedication Day" by a joint resolution of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. It commemorates Abraham Lincoln's visit to Gettysburg to dedicate the National Cemetery. Remembrance Day occurs on the closest Saturday to November 19.

The celebration of Remembrance Day dates to 1956 when the SUVCW, in conjunction with the city of Gettysburg, began a celebration to help ensure that the purpose for and date of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address would not be forgotten. Today, the program includes decorating the graves of the Civil War soldiers that died and are buried at Gettysburg, a memorial program, parade, and wreath laying at the monument of the last Grand Army of the Republic Veteran, Albert Woolson.



Department of New York represented at the Remembrance Day Parade, Gettysburg, Penn. on 15 November 2014

## Helping Veterans' Families

Judson Hicks Camp N° 111 helps with toy drive

During the month of November, Department Patriotic Instructor and Camp Commander of the Sgt. Judson Hicks Camp No. 111 was able to raise donations of roughly 600 new Christmas toys to help Veterans' families who would be able to benefit from the extra help.

Eighty care packages of children's toys were able to be disbursed to the Canandaigua Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Victory House, Cadence Square and Safe Haven, on 21 November 2014. These entities help Veterans and their families with support programs, transitioning and with housing.

The hope of the Sgt. Judson Hicks Camp was to make Christmas extra special for the veterans and their children.



On the left, Kimberly Hicks (American Legion Aux) and Bill Fox, director of treatment services at FLACRA (The Finger Lakes Addictions Counseling & Referral Agency, Inc.), on the right, Marty Tellier and Patriotic Instructor Daryl Verstrete, Jr.



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

**132<sup>ND</sup> DEPARTMENT  
ENCAMPMENT**

**MAY 1-3, 2015**

**SARATOGA SPRINGS,  
NEW YORK**

2015 ISSUE 1

**THE VOLUNTEER**

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