



THE VOLUNTEER

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

From Dep't Commander Leo McGuire

I usually get newsletters from the Ireland and Sydney camps and have gotten one other so far since the encampment in May. The Dep't by-laws now have a newsletter award, so Camps should be sending newsletters to the Dept. Commander and the Newsletter Editor (currently the Dep't JVC) who will decide on the winner of the award for best newsletter.

Notes taken by the Dep't Commander at the Mid-yr meeting, 3 Nov 18 (presented in list form). Items discussed:

1. **Camp by-laws revisions are required by Nov 30.** The following new sections **are required.** Youthful members and 501c3 language. Please make **3 copies** of your bylaws (for Nat., Dep't, and

Camp). I will sign and send back your camp's copy. If your treasury stays under \$1000.00 (current IRS rules) and you have the required sections in your bylaws, you are covered. This way you don't have to pay the \$600.00 fee.

2. **990N- Make sure you file this free form.**
3. Financial records- There should be dual signatures on checks. Proposed bylaws change to this effect. The IRS requires us to hold financial records for **7 years.**
4. Camp secretary positions, how to take some tasks from the secretary to make his job easier.
5. Posting of minutes of meetings (try to post minutes as soon as possible). The bylaws states that the minutes of the encampment should be out in 180 days.

6. Awards- Dr. Walker - the award goes to any member of the allied orders.
7. When processing in new members- 3 copies of the paperwork: camp, Dep't and Nat. Send to the Dep't Secretary.
8. Territories for camps, ROTC, scouts.... Respect other camps and ask for help or permission.
9. Meetings with allied orders. We need better relations and I hope to strengthen the bonds.
10. Lake George encampment- The Nat. CIC scheduled to attend. There may be a tour of Fort William Henry on Friday for \$12.00 for seniors at 4:00 Friday. The consensus was that this should not take the place of the campfire because we have never charged anyone to attend a campfire. Perhaps a campfire after

the tour - I am conferring with the Allied Orders.

11. Raffle - Please communicate with Richard Straight if you can donate a prize.
12. On the web site - fc&l4ever is the code for the brothers-only page on the Dep't web site (no commas).
13. Mid yr and encampment for next year- Midyear, possibly earlier in October. Hudson Valley or near NYC should be the next Dep't encampment.
14. Communications. Please just send the word "**received**" so I know that you received my message.
15. Passing of brothers- keep the Dep't Secretary and Dept. Chaplin and use form 30, "Camp Status Report" from the National web site.
16. National Encampment- The Department of Ohio, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War invites you to the Buckeye State for the 138th Annual Encampment of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic to be held in Independence, OH on August 8 – August 11, 2019
17. GRO – The New GRO is Brother Duffy. Brother King (Willard camp) suggested that when you are trying to get a tombstone to send a copy of request to your Congressional **representative**. Quicker results.
18. Memorial booklet- The Auxiliary publishes the booklet.

19. Web site - Brother LeMay is injured but he is updating the website with help from Brother Paul.
20. Annual reports/dues- Try to meet deadlines to help the Dept. Secretary.
21. Registration fee – discussion resulted in no changes.
22. Monuments on web page - pictures possibly may be added to the web page, checking with co web masters.
23. Rally around the flag – I will talk to the committee to see if we can post the flags and units from the towns. Suggestion by Brother Straight (SVC) to use a "**GO Fund Me**" page to help with costs.
24. Calendar year versus our Sons year (discussed).
25. ½ page of Journal of Proceedings dedication to death of PDC (Proposed change to bylaws to read ½ **page** for past PDC)
26. Quorum definition – up to camps
27. I was asked about the Gen. Thomas grave. Improvements were explained. The tree which was a hazard to the monument is down and sections of the fence reconstructed. I will try to get photos to the web page.
28. Changes to the bylaws must be submitted 60 days prior to the encampment.

New Graves Registration Officer

Commander McGuire announced that he has appointed Dennis J. Duffy Graves Registration Officer (GRO) for the Department. Bro. Dennis is Secretary-Treasurer of Moses A. Baldwin Camp #544 on Long Island, a position he will also continue to hold.

Bro. Dennis notes that "Graves registration is at the very core of our mission" and he hopes more brothers will get involved. At a minimum, every camp should appoint a GRO and brothers should read the Graves Registration information on the National website under "Projects and Preservation".

So far roughly 650,000 graves have been recorded in the SUVCW database with about a million to go.

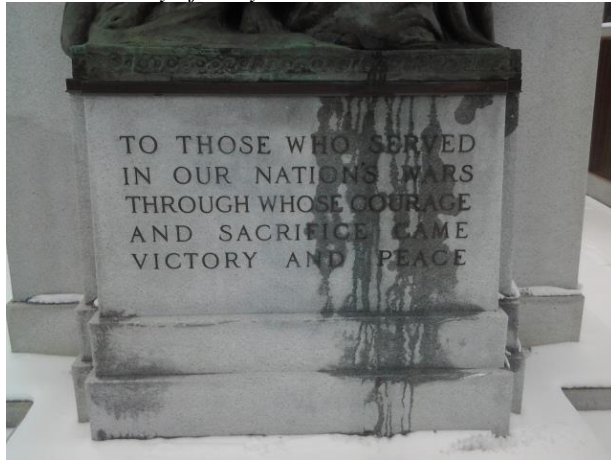
Dennis is new to this work himself but is quite enthusiastic. The Historian of the Town of Edinburg in Saratoga County provided Dennis with a list of 24 Union soldiers buried in the Town and Dennis has expanded this number to 28. He was also able to locate the grave of the Historian's gggrand-uncle in the Soldiers Home National Cemetery in Washington, DC.

IMPORTANT: Bro. Dennis asks that all brothers who have entered graves into the database during 2018 send him an e-mail stating their name, Camp and the number of graves added in the calendar year. This should be done in January. There will be awards at the encampment for the brother and the Camp who have added the most graves.

Interested? Want to learn/do more? Contact Dennis at 516-593-4014 or duffy99999@aol.com

(Editor's note- several of our Brothers have done extensive work with graves registration and stone replacement. Two of these are PDC Daryl Verstraete of Hicks Camp and Greg Furness of Willard Camp. If you have questions on how to proceed with a registration or replacement, you may be able to consult with them, or any other experienced Brother not mentioned here.)

Photo Courtesy of Jerry Orton...



Some members of the Iron Jacks (L. to R.) Bob DeLisle, and Brothers DJ and David Dziejewski

From Jerry Orton and David Dziejewski

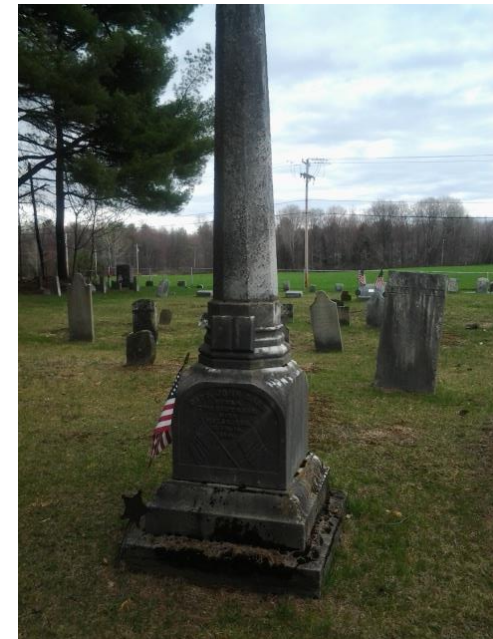
The 2nd Battle of Wilton

The first Battle of Wilton took place on February 17, 1683. A force of 600-700 French and Algonquin Indians engaged about 250 Colonial-British Troops and 290 Mohawk Indians under the command of Peter Schuyler.

Three hundred twenty-five years later, The Second Battle of Wilton took place on August 11 and 12, 2018 on a weekend organized by Grant Cottage as part of the Bicentennial Celebration of the Town of Wilton. The battle took place on the grounds of D.A. Collins Company (the former Wilton Developmental Center) on Ballard Road. Some of participants

were: 10th Louisiana Co, C; 118th NY Vols; 150 NY Vols; 2nd Vermont Vol. Cavalry; Civil War Medical Coalition; U.S. Naval Landing Party (USNLP) and Grays and Blues of Montreal. There were also groups offering tin types, historical displays, period church services, a Civil War fashion show and a book signings.

Musical groups such as the 77th NY Regimental Balladeers and The Veterans in the New Field had performances during the two-day event. The Iron Jacks, which include several Brothers from Willard Camp, performed during opening ceremonies and from the USNLP camp throughout the weekend.



Tombstone in Wilton, NY. Photo courtesy of Jerry Orton.

From the Office of the New York Department Secretary

Fellow Brothers,

The year is coming quickly to a close and it's time to start thinking about the Camp Annual Reports. Even though they are not due to me until April 30, it is always a good idea to start early- especially with the difficulties that are often faced when collecting dues. Also, after your elections, Form 22, The Installation of Officers is due to me by February 15.

As many of you know, the Department and the Camps are required to amend their By-Laws to incorporate youthful protection requirements and also add the wording to be covered as a tax exempt organization. See Department Commander Leo McGuire's Department Order #6 for the wording.

990 N's are due by the 15th day of the fifth month after the close of your business year. For some Camps that is a calendar year, for others it may be June 30. If you missed the deadline, you can still submit it. The problem occurs when you miss three years in a row. This is a good website to find information <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5248.pdf>

Several Camps have been remitting the wrong dues amount when sending in money and applications. Remember the dues are prorated.

	Application Fee	National Dues	Dep't Dues	Total Sent to Dep't
Joined January 1- March 31	5	23	6	34
April 1-June 30	5	17.25	4.5	26.75
July 1- September 30	5	11.5	3	19.5
October 1-December 31	5	5.75	1.5	12.25

Note: Dues from Members joining in the first Quarter should be included with Camp's annual report.

On Nov 4th we had a good midyear meeting with a good attendance. We talked about several issues and I am certain that the Commander will tell you more. I would especially like to thank Betty Wheeler for putting on another great lunch.

One last reminder, when reporting a passing of a Brother, please send the Form 30 to me. Sometimes I hear from National when a Brother dies and the problem with this is that he may not be included in our Memorial service at the Encampment and therefore may not receive the recognition that he deserves.

Submitted in F, C, and L,

Robert Pugsley, PDC, NY Department Secretary

*Submitted for Camp Commander
William M. Tojek by William Christen.
Photographs are courtesy of Bill Christen*



NEW YORK DEPARTMENT

Civil War Veteran Grave Marker Dedication

Private Patrick Fitzgerald

The Brothers of Weber Camp 44 honored Private Patrick Fitzgerald by dedicating his veteran's grave marker on Saturday, November 10th. Also participating were members of the Weber Guard (Sons of Veterans Reserve), Company A of the United States Engineers Battalion, and representatives of the 155th New York Volunteer Infantry Reenacting Regiment. The service was planned and coordinated by Weber Camp

Graves Registration Officer David Demmerley.

Patrick Fitzgerald enlisted as a Private on February 18, 1865 and was mustered as a substitute into Company C of the 76th Infantry Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, also known as the "Keystone Zouaves." He was mustered out on July 18, 1865 at Raleigh, North Carolina, D.C. with the unit.

He died on November 7, 1891 and was interred at Holy Cross Cemetery in Lackawanna, New York following funeral services at the St. Joseph Cathedral. However, this grave location was not his final burial place.

On February 15, 1962, a new veteran's grave marker was ordered by the Service Officer for the local American Legion organization to replace the existing tombstone. The inscription on the original tombstone was incorrect. This original tombstone was removed and ultimately ended up in the possession of the Town of Cheektowaga. An archivist with the Town requested help from the Brothers of Weber Camp to locate the site of Fitzgerald's grave. Their research confirmed that he was buried in Holy Cross Cemetery, that his remains had been relocated to his family's plot, and his grave was indeed marked with the veteran's grave marker.

Finally, after fifty plus years, this marker was dedicated on November 10th.



Photographs are courtesy of Bill Christen

Submitted by Dennis J. Duffy

For more information, contact Robert Hodge

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(703) 994-6970

***Remembering Rochester's Regiment:
Preservationists to save land in Virginia.***

(Washington DC) -- "We are trying to save land in Virginia where boys from Rochester fought, and in some cases were captured, wounded, or killed", said Tom Van Winkle, president of the land preservation and conservation group The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT). Rochester's own 140th New York Infantry fought on battlefield property the CVBT is now saving. "Although CVBT is based in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, we have a national following, and we want it to grow. We are in a race with time to save historic greenspace in this county where people from Rochester fought for the preservation of the Union and we are asking for your help," said Chris Mackowski, professor at St. Bonaventure University and CVBT board member.

Since 1996 the CVBT has saved over 1,300 acres of "battlefield greenspace" from America's bloodiest conflict -- in the country's bloodiest county -- *Spotsylvania* -- where over 750,000 soldiers fought and 110,000 fell in four battles in a mere 18-months. "Major newsgroups were publishing

reports from 'The Front' regularly in Spotsylvania. Many Americans would know very well the names of the county's battlefields -- Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, 'The Wilderness', and Spotsylvania Court House -- in addition to the local names of the roads, rivers, farms, that were fought over," said CVBT board member Pete Kolakowski. *All four of those battlefields are ranked in the top ten deadliest battles of the Civil War.*

The race with time to save this battlefield land has accelerated by the fact that Spotsylvania County, being just 60 miles from Washington DC, has been one of the fastest growing areas in the United States. In Spotsylvania the roads have been becoming choked with rising traffic congestion. Those same roads were also where massive armies marched, and bled over in the 1860's -- a quandary for preservation and conservation groups.

Compare the rapid growth of Spotsylvania County with the hard reality that the underfunded National Park Service (NPS) owns just 1,500 acres of the 21,000-acre Spotsylvania Court House battlefield, or only 14%. *Ironically, Spotsylvania Court House was the third bloodiest battle of the Civil War, lasting 13-days.*

The target property the CVBT is now saving is part of that long-neglected battle in an area

known as Myer's Hill, where Rochester's 140th fought.

The fighting at Spotsylvania Court House was also the costliest battle of Union General Grant's famed and aggressive "Overland Campaign". Grant's Federal army suffered 50,000 casualties in 50 days slugging it through Virginia in 1864; it was a Presidential election year, and Abraham Lincoln needed military victories to be re-elected. In 1864 the warfare took on a more modern, and more desperate, feel.



Photo Credit: Guy DeMasi

By the time Rochester's 140th New York attacked Myer's Hill they had been in action for 9 straight days -- losing 315 soldiers of 529. They were a hard-fighting, "zouave" unit, wearing fez caps and turbans, short jackets, baggy pantaloons and leggings, of an Algerian influence – a popular style at the time.

At 8am on May 14th the 140th New York zouaves and another regiment, attacked Rebel artillery and cavalry on Myer's Hill. "Forward we go with bayonets," said 140th Private August Seiser, "Under a rain of bullets". Company B's John Wetzel was hit in the left thigh, and George Dreschler in the hip. Tim Farrell of Brockport's Company A took a Rebel bullet in the left foot. John Snyder of Churchville's Company G was hit by a minie-ball in the finger.



Soldiers of the 140th New York's Company B.

Photo Credit: Brian Pohanka

The 140th took Myer's Hill from the Confederates. Private Seiser rushed into the Myer House stating, "We reach the top, rush into the building. The rebels take to their heels and quickly we are the possessors." The 140th set up a defensive position in Myer's Hill orchard. They are relieved by a Federal brigade of about 900 men, which is later routed by a Confederate counter-attack of couple thousand. In this vicious Rebel assault General Meade is almost captured while directing a Federal picket line. After a fierce Federal artillery barrage Meade orders the 140th New York, and over ten thousand other Union troops, to attack and retake Myer's Hill. A Union soldier said, "The rebs were lying on the other side to avoid our shells which were hissing and exploding around the crest . . ." Then the Federals attacked. "When all was ready the bugle sounded the charge and we broke from cover like quarter-horses and with a volley of cheers mounted the hill, when they heard our cheers supposed a mighty force was coming and so they ran like the Devil."

Historians have wanted Myer's Hill preserved for a while.

Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service, Ed Bearss, said, "At Myer's Hill Grant was checked, but he goes back and takes it. The fighting for the hill results in a crucial two-day delay for his army."

Noted Civil War, and Spotsylvania, author, Gordon Rhea, said, "It is imperative that Myer's Hill be

saved to enable future generations to walk the ground and understand the momentous events that transpired there."

Local resident and Spotsylvania Court House historian, John Cummings added, "I've been hoping for nearly twenty years now, to see this vital property preserved. The human interest stories relating to Myer's Hill abound, and its preservation and interpretation will greatly enhance the understanding of the two week struggle at Spotsylvania Court House."

CVBT pays fair market value for the historic land. They work with landowners who want to see their property saved for future generations to appreciate and learn about America's vast history.

Private Seiser wrote after the Myer's Hill battle, "Deadly tired we throw ourselves onto the wet ground . . . How is it possible to endure such strain and how long will it still last in this way?"

"We want to remember Rochester's soldiers, and others, that fought at Myer's Hill. *By protecting this land it helps tell their story.* CVBT is also saving greenspace along the way, and, simply put, we need your help to accomplish this", said CVBT Executive Director, Elizabeth Heffernan. She added, "CVBT's administrative costs are low, at 14%; one of our mottos has been 'Your green buys green'.

(Editor's Note.... Jerry Orton has been very busy. He has submitted dozens of pictures of memorials and attended events from around the State and the Nation for this newsletter. Here is a selection from what he has sent.)



Jerry

Orton shaking hands with Michelle Colburn of Aurora, Nebraska, National President of the Woman's Relief Corps, Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic. The 136th National Convention was held August 4 to 7, 2018 in Elyria, Ohio.



Old Brick Church Cemetery in the Town of Wilton.



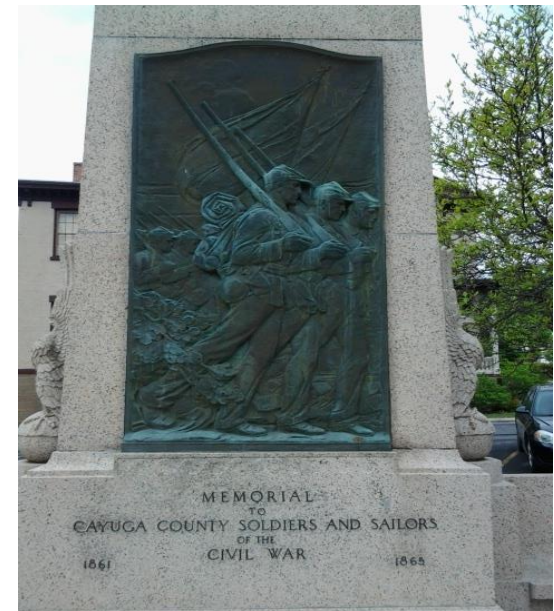
Gloversville, Fulton County, NY, Prospect Hill Cemetery Association, Route 29A (E. Fulton St).



Old Stone Fort Museum, Schoharie County, NY



Above and below -Auburn





Department of New York

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



Dep't COMMANDER- Leo McGuire PCC

SR. VICE COMMANDER- Richard Straight PCC

JR. VICE COMMANDER- Darin Everdyke, PCC

SECRETARY- Robert L. Pugsley PDC

TREASURER- Jeffrey Albanese PDC

COUNSELOR- Danny Wheeler, PC-in-C

COUNCIL-Paul Ellis-Graham, Daryl Verstrete PDC, Ray
Wheaton PDC

ARCHIVIST- Lance Ingmire

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR- Richard E. Straight

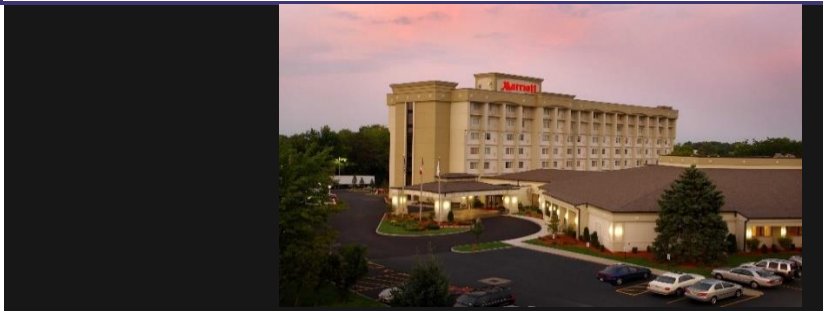
HISTORIAN- Jerome L. Orton PDC

SPRING2018

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Department of New York, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

136th Encampment - Department of New York-
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War May 17-19,
2019 in Lake George at the Fort William Henry Hotel



CHAPLAIN- Rev. Dr. Mark D. Isaacs

GAR HIGHWAY OFFICER- Matthew J. Hereford PCC

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