

Our  
115th  
Year



**CAMP OFFICERS**

Camp Commander  
Robert Keough

Senior Vice  
Commander  
David Dziewulski

Junior Vice  
Commander  
Leo McGuire

Secretary/Treasurer  
George Malinoski

Camp Council  
Paul Grady  
David Dziewulski  
Ray LeMay III

Chaplain  
George Malinoski

Patriotic Instructor  
Richard Straight

Guide  
John Swartwout

Guard  
Paul Cooney

# The Guidon

P.O. Box 13681 Albany, NY 12212-3681 [www.GLWILLARD154.org](http://www.GLWILLARD154.org)  
Summer 2014

## Old and New Traditions Combined



Photo: Michael Teres

Brothers, back row left to right, Richard Straight, Frank Swartwout, John Swartwout, Jr., Chuck Berns, Leo McGuire, David Dziewulski PCC and DJ Dziewulski. Front row left to right Robert Keough CC, Alycia Hamilton, Cameron Smith, (our honored guests) and Joseph Dziewulski.

The members of the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154 in the past would get together for what was known as the Lincoln Dinner. It now has been brought back as the Lincoln Luncheon combined with the Legion of Merit medal presentations.

Twenty Brothers and guests enjoyed a very nice luncheon in the Trojan Room at Brown's Brewing Co. in Troy, NY on June 14, 2014. After the lunch Alycia Hamilton and Cameron Smith, to their complete surprise, were awarded Honorary Legion of Merit medals. The two were honored for

their dedication to keeping green the memories of Civil War Veterans buried at the New Mt. Ida Cemetery in Troy, NY. For years they have been organizing work parties to clean the area, reset stones and work on the general maintenance of the Cemetery.

Nine of the Brothers were inducted as regular members of the Legion of Merit. This is a great beginning to a new tradition for the Willard Camp. The Brothers are listed under the top caption.



Photo: Michael Teres

Brothers and guests chat and look over the luncheon program before the event began.



Photo: Michael Teres

Brothers Chuck Berns, John Hilton, Sr. and Frank Swartwout listen to the remarks during the medal presentations.



# 131st Department of New York Encampment at Rochester, NY



Rochester, NY's beautiful GAR monument in Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Even with much of the Encampment's discussions taken up with revisiting the misconduct of the Department's former Secretary / Treasurer a great deal of work was accomplished. A change to the By-laws was approved that will assure greater fiscal responsibility and accountability. Most of the morning was devoted to reports of the various officers and committees. Reports were finished after lunch. It was at that time Brother Straight of Willard Camp made the same moving presentation he had given at our last Camp meeting entitled "Rally Round the Flags." The outcome of this presentation was the adoption of motions written by him and reviewed by Robert Keough CC, and David Dziewulski PCC. The motion, because of the lack of State funding, called for an aggressive campaign to procure State, local and private funding to carry on the work of the New York State Battle Flag Preservation Project. Our Camp should be proud of being the catalyst for this important project.

Our new Department Commander is George Weinmann of the Tilden Camp. Brothers Orton and Walter were reappointed to their Department posts. Brothers Dziewulski and Keough were reelected to the Department Council.

A very nice dinner, put on by the Allied Orders, concluded Saturday's events at the Airport Holiday Inn in Rochester, NY but not before a number of fund-raisers and an auction were held. This brought in needed money for the Department of NY, SUVCW and the other Allied Orders. Period music was provided by Perry Cleaveland and Paul Swiatek.

Sunday was gray, cold and windy as members of the Allied Orders gathered at Mt. Hope Cemetery for a 9:00 a.m. service and rededication of the beautiful GAR monument featuring a Color Sergeant and a young bugler. After the service held at the GAR plot the group moved on to visit a number of other grave sites at the cemetery. These included the graves of Theodore Cazeau and Joseph Rippey, Past National Commanders, James A. Hard second to last Union Veteran and last Union combat veteran of the Civil War; abolitionist Frederick Douglas; and finally, the grave of Susan B. Anthony. It was sad to see the stones in poor condition with names eroding.



Members of the Allied Orders along with other Rochester residents including a representative of Mayor's Office at the rededication of the GAR Monument.



Camp Brothers Leo McGuire, Robert Keough CC, Robert Walter, Jerry Orton PDC, David Dziewulski PCC and Robert Straight at Department Encampment.



# May 30, 2014 Memorial Day



Brothers Leo McGuire, Robert Keough CC, Ray LeMay III PCC, Paul Halpin PCC and Richard Straight at Albany Rural Cemetery. Tim Mabee not shown.

Once more, on May 30th, six of our Brothers came together to honor Civil War Veterans. The event started at 10:00 a.m. in Albany Rural Cemetery and ended at Oakwood Cemetery in Troy, NY. Two services at the soldiers and sailor's plots were held, which included the reading of General Order No. 11, of 5 May 1868, a reading of the Memorial Day program, the reciting of "Bivouac of the Dead" and the singing of two verses of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Flowers were placed at the plots and also on the graves of Major General George H. Thomas, Col. George L. Willard and Third Assistant Engineer George Geer from the crew of the USS Monitor.



Brother Tim Mabee takes a moment to clean the plaque in front of Major General George H. Thomas' grave in Oakwood Cemetery.

# A Minor Mystery is Solved

By David M. Dziewulski, PCC

In the Winter 2013-2014 issue of The Guidon a short piece on page three entitled "Gen. Thomas' Funeral" was presented. The article cites the Harper's Weekly of April 23, 1870 and the information that accompanied a depiction (sketch) of the funeral in that periodical. According to the original writer the sketch depicts the "... scene in the cemetery at the moment of depositing the remains in the vault belonging to the family of the deceased soldier's wife." Commander Keough and Sr. Vice Commander Dziewulski inspected the exterior of, and photographed, the vault adjacent to the Kellogg plot and it did not match the image presented in Harper's Weekly. Recently, while visiting with Oakwood Cemetery Administrator Mr. Bernie Vogel to renew the memorandum of understanding for the care of, and fund-raising for, the General Thomas monument and Kellogg Family plot, Mr. Vogel showed Brother David the proposed locations for the directional signage that the Camp and others have helped fund. While on this tour Brother David relayed the story from The Guidon to Bernie who was kind enough to show the actual vault used to store remains on a temporary basis. This receiving vault is the one shown in Harper's Weekly story and it is not a Kellogg Family vault. The vault pictured in the accompanying photograph is the only receiving vault in Oakwood Cemetery and received the remains of General George Thomas until his grave site was completed.



Photo: Dave Dziewulski

Receiving vault near the 101st Street entrance of Oakwood Cemetery that is depicted in the sketch of the April 30, 1870 issue of Harper's Weekly that reported on General Thomas' funeral.



## New Mt. Ida gets needed help



Joe Ferrannini and Camp Brothers make a stone almost like new. We can remember and help one stone at a time.

Yes, we can make a difference one stone at a time. An unlikely group of concerned individuals including Brothers from Sigma Chi Fraternity, re-enactors with the 125th NYVI and Brothers from our Camp came together to work at New Mt. Ida Cemetery on June 28th and 29th. Joe Ferrannini, of Gravestone Matters, was on hand to give advice, help with the repair and the cleaning of stones. In the end 16 veterans stones were repaired, and 9 non-military markers were fixed. The over all coordination of the work was directed by Alysia Hamilton and Cameron Smith. Brothers present at various time during the weekend were Dave Dziewulski PCC, Leo McGuire, Richard Straight and John Hilton, Sr.

## Two New Camp Members



Brother Richard Straight (center) welcomes new Brothers Charlie Flanagan (left) and Vince Jockimo (right) to the Camp.

## Thomas Curley remembered



Thanks to Brother Patrick Reilly, Thomas Curley's GAR marker has been straightened in St. Paul's Cemetery, Mechanicville, NY and Pat is coming back with a flag. Curley was with Co. B, 35 NJVI and died at 35, Oct. 16 1865.

## Col. George L. Willard Camp # 154 Coming Events 2014

Month	Date	Event / Location
August	16, 17	No meeting Schuyler Flatts Recruiting Display
September	6	Camp Meeting St. Agnes 10:00 a.m. Announce upcoming elections Menands, NY
October	4	Camp Meeting St. Agnes 10:00 a.m. Nomination of Officers Menands, NY
November	1	10:00 a.m. Short meeting, voting on new Officers and lunch all at Brown's Brewing Co. Troy, NY
December	6	Camp Meeting St. Agnes 10:00 a.m. Installation of Officers Menands, NY Check our web site for a number of events taking place this month

## Brothers Use The Web and Visit These Sites:

**Col. George L Willard Camp #154**

<http://www.gwillard154.org/>

**SUVCW Department of NY**

<http://suvchw.org/ny/deptny.htm>

**SUVCW National Headquarters**

<http://www.suvchw.org/>

**NYS Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee**

<http://www.nycivilwar150.org/>