

Our
118th
Year



CAMP OFFICERS

Camp Commander
Richard Straight

Senior Vice
Commander
John Swartwout

Junior Vice
Commander
Vince Jackimo

Secretary/Treasurer
George Malinoski

Camp Council
Robert Keough
David Dziewulski
Leo McGuire

Chaplain
George Malinoski

Patriotic Instructor
Vincent Jackimo

Guide
Tim Mabee

Guard
Paul Cooney

Color Bearer
Richard Farr

Graves Registration
James King

Eagle Scout
Coordinator
Brian Castler

The Guidon

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Summer 2016 Robert Keough Editor

Oakwood Cemetery Celebrates General Thomas' Bicentennial

July 30th was the bicentennial of Major General George Henry Thomas' birth. He was born at Newsom's Depot, Southampton County, Virginia in 1816. At the age of 13 with his father's passing he inherited 685 acres of land and 24 slaves. In 1831 he saw the harsh acts used to crush Nat Turner's slave rebellion and decided that slavery was a vile institution. He went to the US Military Academy at West Point, NY in 1836 and because of his advanced age of 20 he was called "Old Tom." With the outbreak of the Civil War this Virginia-born officer elected to stay with the Union. The General's military successes in the war won him the titles of 'Rock of Chickamauga' and the 'Sledge of Nashville.' Thomas died March 28th 1870 in California and was buried at Oakwood Cemetery in Troy, NY on April 8th 1870. He was the first of the great Civil War Generals to die after the war. At the Oakwood celebration there was a great deal of activity. The Willard Camp #154 acted as

color guard. Rosemary Nichols of the Capital District Civil War Round Table, was the mistress of ceremonies. The US Post Office canceled first day covers, Michael Barrett gave a short lecture on Thomas's career. Brother Dziewulski discussed the Camp's ongoing project with the Kellogg plot and the Thomas bicentennial challenge coin. Willard Camp had both the challenge coins and GAR sesquicentennial pins available for attendees. Monies from these items will be used to help fund the removal of the dying tree on the Kellogg Family plot.



US Postal workers stamp first day covers at the event.



Willard Camp Color Guard marches forward to present the colors.



Brother Dziewulski sets up to sell challenge coins and GAR pins.



Brother Swartwout stands next to the Thomas site's greatest problem.

Cleveland Remembers 'The Rock'



Photo: Cleveland Civil War Roundtable

Members of the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable enjoy an evening out.

On July 31st the Cleveland Civil War Roundtable met at the Cleveland Chop restaurant to celebrate the 200th anniversary of General George H. Thomas' birth. The evening included dinner, toasts, a trivia contest and a talk by Dan Zieser on Thomas' life and times, praising him as a loyal, determined, skillful general who never lost a battle. At the end evening awards were given out to the trivia winners and Dan Zieser received a Col. George L. Willard Camp #154 Thomas challenge coin. All attendees received commemorative postal cancellations honoring Thomas from both the Chickamauga, GA and the Troy, NY offices.

Exhibition Tells Troy's Stories



Photo: Times Union Newspaper

Celebrating Troy: 200 x 200 exhibit at the Rensselaer County Historical Society.

The "official" public opening of Celebrating Troy: 200 X 200 took place on September's Troy Night Out, Friday, September 30th from 5-8 p.m. The exhibit tells the city's two-centuries-old story. The Rensselaer County Historical Society is so appreciative of the local generosity in lending Troy objects to the show. Among items on display in the exhibit is the USS Monitor poster for which the Col. George L. Willard Camp #154 helped obtain grant funding to produce. Copies of the poster will be given away to visitors. The exhibit will be open, Thursday through Saturday from noon to 5 PM, until December 17th.

Brothers Perform at Schuyler Flatts



Four Brothers of the Willard Camp preform as the Iron Jacks.

For the first time in years the weather was outstanding when Brothers David Dziewulski PCC, Robert Keough PCC, DJ Dziewulski and Joseph Dziewulski performed mariner songs and shanties at the Schuyler Flatts' Historical Timeline on August 27th. David and Joseph Dziewulski returned on the 28th to repeat their performance. The Brothers also set up a SUVCW recruiting table, sold General George Thomas bicentennial challenge coins and GAR sesquicentennial pins. As part of the historic timeline there were military units from Roman times to WW II including German, Italian and American troops. Other groups, including the Capital District Civil War Roundtable, had tables giving out information, selling books, T-shirts and food to the visitors. Once more our Civil War cut-outs were a hit with children and adults alike.

New Mt. Ida Sign



Photo: Alycia Hamilton

Cameron Smith finishes up the repainting of New Mt. Ida's historic marker.

Our friends at the New Mount Ida Cemetery report that their historic marker has take on a new life. The marker was recently repainted, in the traditional State blue and yellow colors, and then remounted. Once more we would like to congratulate Alycia Hamilton, Cameron Smith and their team for their hard work at the cemetery. The City of Troy should be very proud these citizens.

Brother Walter in Boston



Brother Robert H. Walter, smiling as usual, on the deck of the USS Constitution.

Brother Walter along with a number of members of the USNLP spent a living history weekend in Charlestown, MA and aboard the USS Constitution which is berthed there. This took place August 27th - 28th.

Windham Musical Re-enactment



Bob Delisle, DJ, Joseph and David Dziewulski play before a packed house.

Three generations of Brother from the George L. Willard Camp #154 were on hand at the Civil War Music Heritage Gathering in Windham, NY, August 5th to 7th. Brothers David Dziewulski, DJ Dziewulski and Joseph Dziewulski along with Bob Delisle who make up the singing group the Iron Jacks. They played for a large audience gathered for the event.

MOH Recipient Honored



Photo: David Dziewulski

Peter Van Hoesen's (aka James Sullivan) new stone and Camp's floral wreath.

Peter Van Hoesen (aka James Sullivan) had an interesting military carrier during the Civil War. He served in both a New York and Connecticut regiment before joining the U.S. Navy. Peter received his Medal of Honor for action on the coast of South Carolina while a crew member of the USS Agewna. On August 28th the VFW Post 9594, a US Navy Color Guard, Brothers of the Willard Camp #154 of the SUVCW, Civil War re-enactors from the 125 NYVI Regiment and dignitaries including Reprehensive Chris Gibson came together to honor this veteran. The 30 minute ceremony at Coeymans Hollow Cemetery included a re-enactment of a Civil War military funeral. Brothers who attended included R. Straight CC, L. McGuire PCC, R. Lemay III PDC, J. Swartwout, D. Dziewulski PCC and Department of NY Commander Paul Ellis-Graham.

Camp Finds New Home



L to R Brothers McGuire, Rogler, Straight, King, Cooney, Melanoski and Walter.

After a year of meeting at Grace Fellowship Church the Camp has taken up a new location for its monthly meetings. The Willard Camp #154 will now meet on the 1st Saturday of each month at the Senior Center, 1541 Broadway in Watervliet, NY.

Finding the GAR Along the Way

It was just sitting there, on a stone wall, in a small graveyard on NY Route 28 just north of Weavertown, NY. The GAR marker didn't seem to belong to any grave in the area. In our travels and our everyday experiences we can be confronted by a reminder of the GAR at any moment. The funeral photo below was found in a group of glass photographic negatives at a flea market in the southern tier of NY State. We may not know the origin of the item but it does make us remember our departed Brothers. There are many GAR monuments across the country in a variety of conditions. The one shown in the bottom right photograph is in a cemetery near Johnstown, NY and it shows wear but is still in decent repair. As we have these experiences we should make note of them and mark them down for future consideration. The canon and its base in Johnstown is going to need repair at some point and we should keep an eye on these GAR items within our purview.



Photo: Genith Fisher



A member of the GAR at his funeral from a recovered glass negative.

GAR Post 57 created this monument in Evergreen Cemetery outside of Fonda, NY.

Col. George L. Willard Camp # 154 Coming Events 2016

Month	Date	Event / Location
October	1	Camp Meeting Senior Center 10:00 a.m. Watervliet NY Nomintion of Officers for 2017
October	8	Meet the Generals Grant's Cottage 1:00 p.m. Wilton, NY
October	15	Mid-year Department of NY meeting Ithaca, NY
November	5	Camp Meeting Senior Center 10:00 a.m. Watervliet NY Election of Officers for 2017
November	18 -19	Remembrance Day Gettysburg, PA
December	3	Camp Meeting Senior Center 10:00 a.m. Watervliet NY Installation of Officers for 2017
December	17	Wreaths Across America at the Saratoga National Cemetery

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/>