



The Official Newsletter of Citizens Advocating Memorial Preservation, "CAMP"

Dear Friends and Supporters of CAMP,

It's hard to believe we're at the end of another year, but here we are. This year has been marked by slow, yet steady progress on the rehabilitation of the Memorial Building. We thank all of you for your continued support of CAMP.

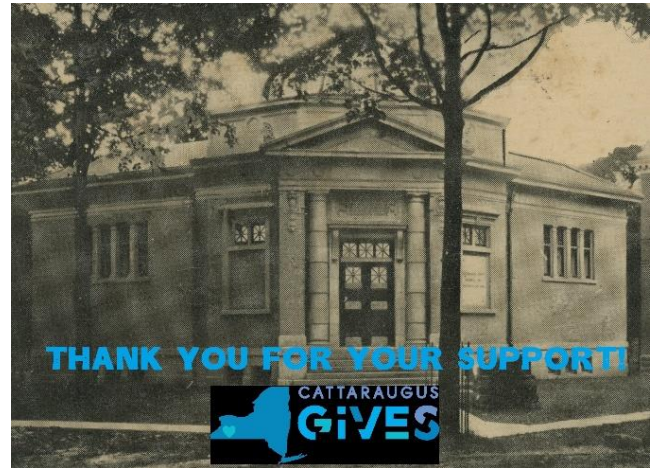
ANNUAL MEETING

CAMP members met for the annual meeting at Top-A-Rise Campground in Falconer, NY on July 16. It was a memorable event for all those in attendance as a torrential storm descended on the campground as the meeting began. The rain, which was beating down upon the tin-roofed building, was so loud that it forced CAMP members to seek shelter in a small interior hallway to conduct the meeting in order to hear one another.



CATTARAUGUS GIVES

CAMP participated in Cattaraugus Gives Day on November 30th. It proved to be a very successful day, and we thank everyone for their generous donations!



NEW BOOKKEEPER

CAMP has a new bookkeeper—Janice Rickermann. Janice has been a tax professional for 40 years, specializing in estates and trusts, and co-founder of Jae Tax, Inc. in Rochester, NY. Her firm also provides tax and accounting services to families, small businesses and corporations. In her free time she's a self-described history buff, avid genealogist, whitewater rafter, and enjoys exploring New York State's many wine regions whenever she can.

MEET THE BOARD

CAMP's Board of Directors is made up of numerous hard-working volunteers. We'd like to introduce them to you in a new series, "Meet the Board."

Jacquie Visker—Jacquie became aware of our efforts while working for Cattaraugus County's Tourism Office, as well as serving as a member of the county Historical Advisory Committee. After taking a new position with Chautauqua County, she joined CAMP, because she felt it important to honor our military service members and veterans, as the original purpose of the building was intended. She notes *"working with the historical advisory committee gave me a greater appreciation of knowing your local history and understanding the rich history our area has. It is important for us to have reminders of our local history and to move forward with the knowledge of where you have been."*



Jacquie and her husband Chris supporting CAMP at a recent event

In addition Jacquie said that she *"thinks a lot about volunteering in this day and age when everyone is so busy and has so many things pulling them in different directions, it is vital that my generation, and younger, start getting involved in community service and building communities. The older generation has always done this but it seems to have gone to the wayside in my generation. Society isn't always about the individual but rather coming together to share experiences and create spaces that will serve the community and also*

bring people together. The memorial building has those goals in mind and therefore it was the right fit for me. Honoring those who served is the frosting on the cake."

VETERAN PROFILE

One month after the bombardment of Ft. Sumter, Devillo McCleese, of Allegany, NY, enlisted in Co. H of the 37th NY Infantry on May 15, 1861. While Cattaraugus County men hoped to have an entire regiment of their own, the state's quota only called for two companies. As a result, the two Cattaraugus companies (companies H and I) were mustered into service with seven companies raised in New York City, and another from Pulaski, NY. The 37th NYVI was dubbed the "Irish Rifles," and participated in the Peninsula Campaign, 2nd Bull Run, Fredericksburg, and ended their service about a month and a half after their participation in the Battle of Chancellorsville. McCleese appears to have served his entire enlistment unscathed and was mustered out at the end of June 1863.



CDV of McCleese, courtesy of Kyle M. Stetz

After returning home, McCleese pulled up roots in his native Cattaraugus County, and headed west, settling in Valparaiso, Indiana, where on September 14, 1864 Devillo and his wife Ellen welcomed their first child, Carry. McCleese would

leave them behind to once again enter the service, enlisting in Co. H, 151st Indiana Volunteer Infantry on February 15, 1865. The war was over within two months of his second enlistment, but he would not be mustered out of service until mid-September.

The McCleese family's stay in Indiana was brief, and by the early 1870s they had returned to Western NY, settling in neighboring Chautauqua County, NY. Devillo McCleese passed away on November 23, 1919 at the age of 81.

NEW WEBMASTER

In addition to a new bookkeeper CAMP also has a new webmaster—Karl Dunkelman. Karl is the great-great-grandson of Corporal John Langhans of the 154th New York, and son of CAMP founding member Mark Dunkelman. He is helping support the CAMP website <https://cattcomemorial.org>.

VETERAN BIOGRAPHIES

We are always eager to highlight Civil War soldiers from Cattaraugus County. If you had an ancestor that served from the county, we would like to add them to the “Veterans Biographies” section of our website. Please reach out to CAMP board member Kyle Stetz at kmstetz@gmail.com if you would like to have your ancestor added to the roll.



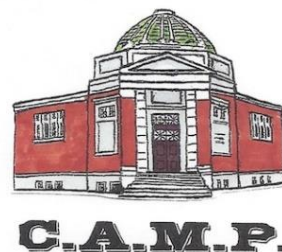
Henry Van Aernam Post, #232 GAR, Ellicottville, NY. Sunset Hill Cemetery, courtesy of Kyle M. Stetz

2022 ON THE HORIZON

As 2021 comes to a close we look forward to another year of progress in 2022. CAMP is always seeking active volunteers to assist our efforts in a variety of ways great and small—anything from on the ground maintenance of the site to behind the scenes work is needed. Since 2013, when the Memorial was slated for demolition, a small group of individuals have led and sustained the effort to save and rehabilitate the Memorial Building. Without these individuals, the corner of Court and 7th Streets in Little Valley might be a grassy lot today, but it is through their efforts that the ONLY all-county veterans’ memorial in Cattaraugus County, NY still stands. However, we need your help to continue CAMP’s efforts as we approach our second decade of work. Whether you’re located near or far, your active participation is greatly needed. What experience and skills can you bring to CAMP?



CAMP wishes you and yours a joyous holiday season. We thank you for your continued interest in the preservation and rehabilitation of the Civil War Memorial Building in Little Valley, NY.



Citizens
Advocating
Memorial
Preservation

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