

Last Soldier -
James Willett

WM6

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

Type of Memorial (check all applicable)

No name in _____ with Sculpture without Sculpture with Cannon standalone Cannon
 Historical Marker Plaque Other (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

Affiliation

GAR MOLLUS SUVCW WRC ASUVCW
 LGAR DUVCW Other

If known, record name and number of post, camp, corps, auxiliary, tent, circle or appropriate information of other groups:
SUVCW Curtis King Camp No 37

Original Dedication Date Oct, 2019 Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the first dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

Location

The Memorial is currently located at:
Street/Road address or site location Oak Hill Cemetery
E of town on E. 9th St. GPS Coordinates 41.96882 - 92.55799
City/Village &/or Township Tama
County Tama State Iowa Zip Code 52339

The front of the Memorial faces: North South East West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner

Name City of Tama
Dept./Div. _____
Street Address 305 Siegel
City Tama State Iowa Zip Code 52339
Contact Person _____ Telephone (41) 484-3822 ext _____

Is Memorial on the National Register of Historic Places Yes No ID # if known _____

For Monuments with/without sculpture:

Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = Stone Concrete Metal Other
If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____

Material of the Sculpture Stone Concrete Metal Other Is it hollow or solid? _____
If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____

>This form may be photocopied.<

For Historic Marker or Plaque:

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = Aluminum front + back PVC core

For Cannons with/without monument:

Material of Cannon = Bronze Iron Type of Cannon (if known) Recorded YES NO

Markings: Muzzle Base Ring/Breech
 Left Trunion Right Trunion
 Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? Yes No

[For camp/department monuments officer's use: Cannon on list of known ordnance] Yes No

For Other Memorials: (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

What best describes the memorial

Materials of the Memorial

Complete for All Memorials

Approximate Dimensions (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points

8" Height 12" Width Depth or Diameter

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue (service, pose, etc) and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

Markings/Inscriptions (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)

Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found

Please attach legible photographs of all text &/or Record the text in the space below. Please use the addendum - narrative sheet if necessary.

See Attached
 Last Soldier (or Sailor in this case) of Tama County -
 Very active in GAR activities - served as
 National Commander of GAR in 1921-22.

Environmental Setting

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

Type of Location

Cemetery Park Plaza/Courtyard "Town Square" Post Office
 School Municipal Building State Capitol Courthouse College Campus
 Traffic Circle Library Other: _____

General Vicinity

Rural (low population, open land) Suburban (residential, near city) Town Urban / Metropolitan

Immediate Locale (check as many as may apply)

Industrial Commercial Street/Roadside within 20 feet Tree Covered (overhanging branches)
 Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors) Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)

Any other significant environmental factor _____

[To detail the condition of a monument used the addendum form for *Monument's Condition*]

Supplemental Background Information

In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment.

Addendums attached to this electronic file are the *Monument's Condition* and the *Narrative* forms. Only the *Monument's Condition* form is required if you are requesting grant money using form CWM-62 *SUVCW Memorial Grant Application Form and Instructions*.

Thank you.

Inspector Identification _____ Date of On-site Survey Oct, 2019
Your Name Tom Gaard
Address 16541 Valleyview Lane
City Clive State Iowa Zip Code 50325
Telephone () _____ E-Mail _____

Are you a member of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R.? If so, which one?

SUVCW Grenville Dodge Camp #75

Please send this completed form to:

Walt Busch, PDC, Chair
1240 Konert Valley Dr.
Fenton, MO 63026



Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR - CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

Iowa Civil War Monuments
Tama County, Tama
GPS Coordinates: 41.968820 by -92.557990

Last Soldier James W. Willett

James Willett (1846-1940) was the last living soldier (or Sailor in this case) in Tama County. He served as Boatswain's Mate on the USS Springfield on the Mississippi River. All other "Last Soldiers" in Iowa served in the Army. He was a lawyer in civilian life and served as the National Commander of the GAR from 1922-23. He was the Judge Advocate General for many years in the GAR. He is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Tama located east of town on E 9th Street. Thanks to Danny Krock for placing the marker in October, 2019 and sending the photo.



JAMES W. WILLETT
BOATSWAIN'S MATE
USS SPRINGFIELD

[PRINT THIS INFORMATION](#)

Judge James W. Willett, Former G. A. R. Chief, Dies



JUDGE JAMES W. WILLETT

Tama Man Succumbs
at Iowa Soldiers'
Home, Marshalltown

DEB. MARSHTOWN, Ia. — Judge James W. Willett, 84 years old former national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, died at 1:34 p. m. Monday at the Iowa Soldiers' Home at Marshalltown.

Judge Willett, whose home was in Tama, was the state commander of the G. A. R. and also captured Judge's strategic general.

The last time he was in the hospital was in 1924 and he had been in the hospital since then.

One of the judges last official act for the G. A. R. was the incorporation of the Iowa State Grand Army of the Republic in 1902. He was particularly fond of the G. A. R. and he had been in the hospital since then.

The Iowa G. A. R. former first national commander general of the national organization in 1904 and held the post continuously until his death, excepting for the year 1911-1912.

State G. A. R. headquarters have announced that funeral services would be held at 2 p. m. Thursday at Tama.

Willett retained his interest in the law firm which he founded despite his poor health in recent years. He took great pride in the fact that three generations of his family were represented in the firm. He was survived by a son, James W. Willett, and a grandson, W. J. Willett.

One of the last big cases he took, he took on a case which was the defense of the late Marvin T. Griffin, a G. A. R. veteran from Des Moines who was convicted of manslaughter in connection with the slaying of a Iowa trader at the Council Bluffs bridge in 1912. The conviction of Griffin's eight-year sentence was suspended by the late Gov. George A. Williams.

DUTCH ROYAL FAMILY GOES TO ENGLAND

LONDON, ENGL. — The Dutch royal family including Queen Wilhelmina, Crown Prince Juliana and her daughter, Beatrix and her son, took refuge in England Monday.

The widow of former king, abdicated to the Dutch throne, was announced last week she and her husband, Prince Bernhard, arrived Monday morning.

Several days ago Queen Wilhelmina arrived in London at the Liverpool Street station where she was welcomed by King George, her daughter and son-in-law.

London, Brussels and the other European cities are now in a state of confusion. The Dutch royal family is expected to stay in England for some time.