

*Sidney Historical Association*

*44 Grand Street, Sidney, NY 13838*

*Founded 1945*

**Fall 2023 Edition**

★ Curator: Mike Wood ★ Treasurer: David Plummer (2024) ★ VP: Bill Morton (2025) ★

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**Don Tuttle (2025); Bill Meyer (2026); Mike Mason (2026); Dennis Porter (2026)**

This past calendar year 2023 we have had several programs, including a history conference. Participating were seven historical associations. We plan on this being an annual event, inviting more associations from our area. The purpose is to share ideas, share successes, better ways to improve our association and continue what we already do well for our audience.

We honored Les Gregory by capturing as much of his life as we could through a DVD and a pamphlet. Les celebrated 100 years of living on April 1st with over 150 family and friends.

Recently we have had a program, Covered Bridges of The Empire State by Wayne & Karen Marshfield. A DVD is being produced.

On October 14<sup>th</sup> we featured a program on NY State Troop "C" and its exciting history, by Louis Palombo. This was a full house attendance event with 70 plus attendees.

**A DVD will be available for both Troop C and the Covered Bridges. If you would like a DVD of either program, please contact me ([larryhalbert7@gmail.com](mailto:larryhalbert7@gmail.com)) or Mike Wood at (607)-434-8258. Donations are appreciated when ordering a DVD.**

**We also have the Terry McMaster DVD and the Les Gregory DVD available.**

Please let us know what other programs of interest that you would like us to present by contacting me at [larryhalbert7@gmail.com](mailto:larryhalbert7@gmail.com) or (607)-237-4762

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## Troop C Program



### A Short Bio Summary of Lou Palombo

Born in Sidney at Kitty Empett's Nursing Home on West Main Street

His Father, Gene Palombo, a Rough Rider, was Lou's most influential person.  
Ralph Beames was one of Lou's mentors.

What would change Lou's life forever in a very profound way, is in October of '64 to September of '68. Lou was an Army helicopter pilot in Vietnam. This included flying troops into battle then later as a medivac, flying the wounded back to safety.

**Organizations:** Vietnam Helicopter Pilots of America; Fraternal Order of Police; Delaware County Sheriff's Association; Local Flying Clubs

Volunteered as (VA), Veterans Administration driver for those veterans that needed transportation to Albany

**Proudest Moment(s):** Flying helicopters in Vietnam as a medivac pilot.

**Lou is known as the "Cat Man" of Afton – A whole other program for that topic**

**Photos from the Troop C Program (10/14/2023)**

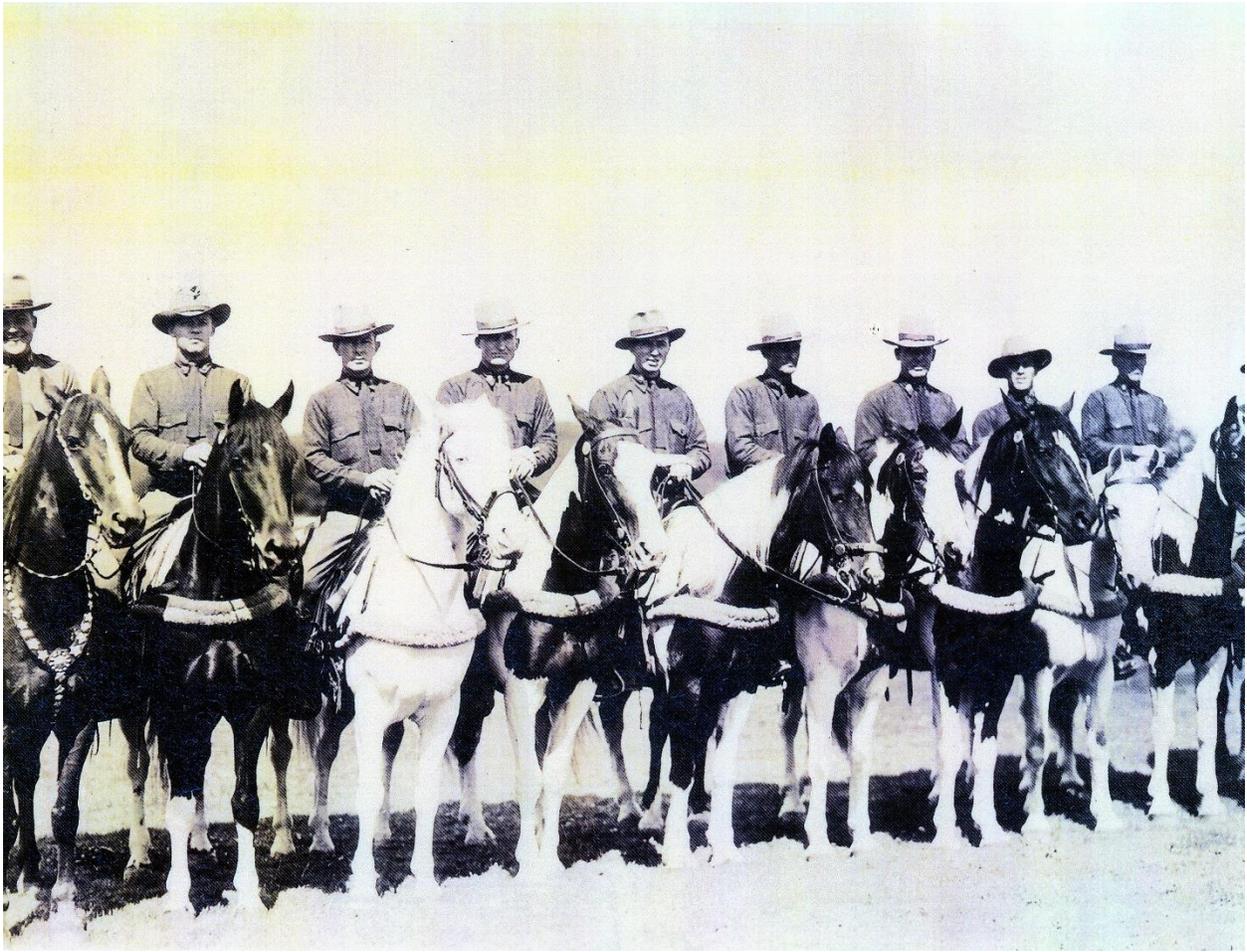


**Lou Palombo – Charlie McKilligan – Tom Kelly**



**Tom Kelly – Tom Stone – Mike Mason – Louis Palombo – Dick Barnes – Charlie McKilligan – Terri Stevens DeRoche – Sue Stone**

**These are former law enforcement personnel and employees of Troop C.**



Perhaps the most important thing that will make Troop C live in memories of the local people is the trick riding team, appropriately named the Rough Riders. Soon after Troop C came to Sidney, Captain Fox bought 25 spotted horses from the state of Montana. Burt Mattox, a cowboy, became a trooper and directed the training of the horses. All of the trick riding team horses were mostly pintos. Each horse weighed approximately 1,000 pounds. And were 14 to 16 hands tall (56" to 64"). At the State Fair in Syracuse in 1921, after only being in existence for four months, Troop C's riding team won six prizes including first prize in cavalry remounts by defeating General Pershing's best mount. They also frequently appeared in Madison Square Garden. They were invited to London England for a show but the distance was too great.

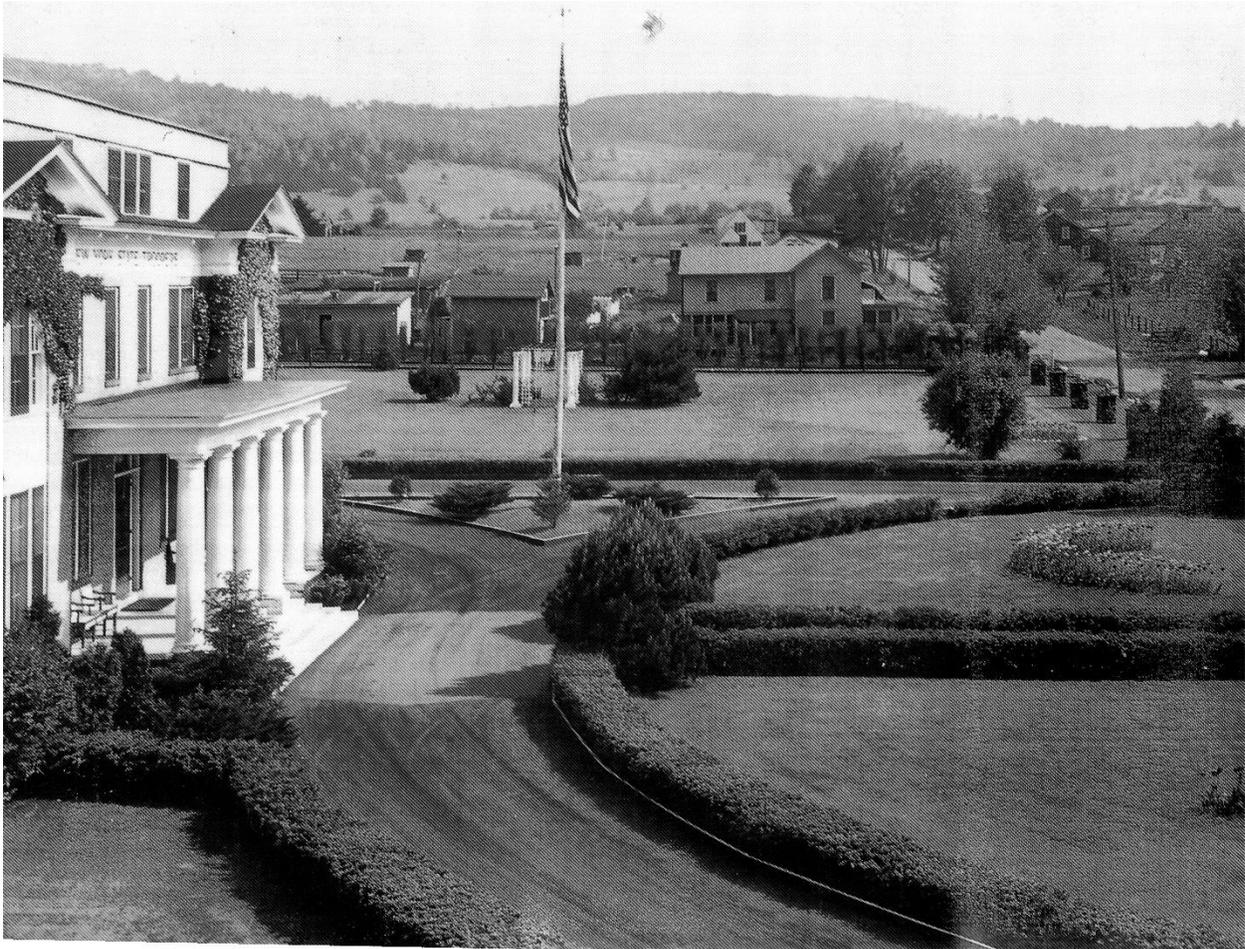


*Established in 1917, the New York State police proudly serves, protects and defends the people of New York, while preserving the rights and dignity of all.*

*Integrity, respect, customer service and leadership are the foundations we continue to build upon in order to serve to the best of our abilities.*

Of the 58 men composing the Sidney Troop, a majority are married men. All of them are well paid by the State. They are men of good moral character and were selected ... from 1,500 applicants. They are young men, of rugged physique and will be well trained for their duties, which require a good level head and prompt action, men like Lieut. Daniel E. Fox.

The Hillcrest location on West Main Street, has been selected by Major Chandler as the best available site in Sidney," which is where Sidney High School is now. The barracks was built at a cost of nearly \$75,000.



“In the Central hotel barn (downtown Sidney) ample space has been allotted for the mounts and they’ll be a busy bunch there for some months,” while the barracks was under construction. “The troopers have transformed the barn floors into neat spacious stalls.” The hotel itself was the temporary barracks.

That was just the beginning, as the July 2 Record told its readers, “Crooks and irregulars in this southern tier of the State are on the anxious seat these days and already Troop C begins to troop them in. Railroad tramps, moonshiners, disorderly dens, illicit, whiskeyites begin to feel the effects of the force stationed at Sidney and crepe hangs out of the door of some dens.”

In December 1950, it was announced that Troop C would move its barracks to a site on state Route 7 to the current headquarters, between Sidney and Unadilla. The old barracks had become obsolete and badly in need of repairs. The new building was constructed at the cost of nearly \$1 million, and was occupied near the end of 1953. (By **Mark Simonson**. May 7, 2021)





**Captain Fox & Franklin Delano Roosevelt**

**1918 – Lt. Daniel Fox was here during the Silk Mill Strike and was made Captain of Troop C. September of 1921 Captain Fox started with 40 men with 50 Western Horses.**

**Franklin Delano Roosevelt was a friend of Captain Fox. When FDR was the governor of NY State, he often visited Troop C. Naturally everything had to be spick and span. The mopping of the hall was left until last, so it would be extra clean when FDR walked in. A trooper was busily mopping the hall when he was told to hurry up because FDR's car was coming up the driveway. He had just started to squeeze out the mop in the pail when the door opened and FDR walked in. The poor trooper became so flustered that he knocked the pail over and the dirty mop water went all over FDR's shoes.**



## CENTENNIAL OPEN HOUSE



- Helicopter/Rescue Demonstrations
- K-9 Demonstration
- Firearms Displays
- Underwater Recovery Team/Scuba
- Special Operations Team
- NYSP Mounted Unit
- Historical Displays
- Hands-On Patrol Car Displays
- Vintage Troop Cars
- Motorcycles
- Tours of Troop Headquarters
- Tours of Forensic Center
- McGruff the Crime Dog
- Merchandise for Sale
- Historical Film
- Food Vendors Available

See map to parking on back

### Troop "C" Headquarters Saturday, October 7, 2017

11:00 AM – 3:00PM

823 State Route 7, Sidney \*



**\* Use off-site parking at  
Delaware Ave. & Union St., Sidney  
Use Exit 9 (Sidney) Interstate 88**

**Follow signs**

**Shuttle Buses will be running**

**(Handicap accessible)**

## Curator's Corner

*I am happy to report the museum attendance this 2023 summer has increased compared to past years. We are enjoying new members and we always welcome visitors. We are continuing to work with our neighboring historical associations by exchanging pertinent items for their collections. We enjoy supporting each other.*

*I highly recommend visiting all our local museums as we share the early history of the Twin River Valleys. We continue our positive partnership with the Sidney Memorial Public Library and the Delaware County Historical Association. We thank both of them for their support in serving our audience.*

*The Sidney Museum is currently looking for any donations of photographs from the 1930's to the present time to add to our collections. Our technology committee, Christopher Smith can scan, enhance through new software and post these for all of us to enjoy. Please send via [historicsidney@gmail.com](mailto:historicsidney@gmail.com) or come see us at 44 Grand Street here in Sidney.*

*Finally, the Youngs Station School House project is now in the legal transfer phase to the Sidney Historical association.*

**See you at the museum, Mike Wood, Curator**

**Please come visit us at 44 Grand Street on either Wednesday or Saturday, hours are 10AM to 2PM or by appointment through Mike Wood (607)-434-8258 or [larryhalbert7@gmail.com](mailto:larryhalbert7@gmail.com) or (607)-237-4762 – All ideas are welcome**

***Larry Halbert – Sidney Historical Association President***