



# LOYAL LEGION HISTORICAL JOURNAL



The Publication of The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

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Summer 2017

## Joseph Lewis Irwin (1818 – 1879) Chaplain, 33rd Indiana Infantry

Joseph Lewis Irwin was born 15 December 1818 in Nelson County Kentucky. He was the second of five sons of Joseph (1783 - 1858) and Sarah Thompson Irwin (1788 – 1862). References hereafter to Joseph will be to the subject of this article, Joseph Lewis, unless stated otherwise. During the American Revolution, Joseph's grandfather John Irwin (1736 - 1826) was a Patriot in the Virginia Line of the Continental Army. It is believed that John's father (Joseph's great grandfather) immigrated to the American colonies from the province of Ulster, Ireland (often referred to as Northern Ireland) within the first two decades of the 18th century. This family was of Scots-Irish descent (the original homeland of the Scots-Irish ethnic group was the "border area" of lowlands Scotland from whence the group settled in Ulster, Ireland during the 17th century).

When Joseph was about 6 years of age, his parents moved the family from Kentucky to Putnam County, Indiana. His father was engaged in farming and Joseph also pursued that means of livelihood, at least in his early adulthood. In 1837, in Indiana, Joseph was united in the bonds of matrimony to Mary Frances



("Fanny") Farr (1818 - 1863). This union resulted in the birth of nine children including two sons, Benjamin H. and Joseph Lewis, Jr., about whom more will be mentioned. Apparently, within a few years of the marriage, the couple moved to Wisconsin where the 1850 census indicates that Joseph's occupation was farming. Eight of the nine children were born in Wisconsin; their birth years spanning 1841 through about 1854.

By April 1855, Joseph had received the calling to be a minister of the gospel as he appears listed as the pastor of the Maria Creek Baptist Church in Knox County, Indiana. He was pastor of this church until August 1860 at which time he moved his family to Franklin, Indiana in Johnson County. The

outbreak of hostilities in the American Civil War occurred a few months after the family's move to Franklin. Joseph volunteered his services as chaplain for the 33rd Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment on 16 September 1861. Joseph was nearly 43 years of age at the time of his enlistment and his military records indicate that the term of his enlistment was 3 years (although officers could resign their commissions if they no longer wished to serve).

As it happened, Joseph did resign his commission on 20 February 1863 after approximately 17 months of service as the chaplain of the 33rd.

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THE LOYAL LEGION HISTORICAL JOURNAL is published by the MEMORIAL FUND of the Military order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, which was founded April 15, 1865. Pertinent materials will be welcomed from Companions and others. Information should be submitted to the Editor, Robert Rock, mollusjournal@aol.com or mailed to 68 West Marion Street, Doylestown, OH 44230. Information should be typed and photographs may be black and white or in color. If submitted electronically please use .doc or .rtf for text and .jpg for photos. Contributions may be made to the Memorial Fund through the National Headquarters.

## Commander-in-Chief's Message

Companions,  
 We enjoyed a perfect weather day on April 15th, at the Abraham Lincoln Tomb Observance, in Springfield, Illinois. A special thanks to PCiC Douglas Niermeyer, who gave me a great tour of New Salem, where Lincoln became a man. I will represent MOLLUS at Arlington Cemetery, on May 30th, the traditional Decoration/Memorial Day. Lansing, Michigan is this year's site of the National SUVCW Encampment, August 10-13. Last year we had about 30 Companions at the Encampment, who are also Sons. Please join me in Lansing to congratulate the incoming SUVCW CiC, Mark Day, a retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, who is also a Hereditary MOLLUS Companion. We have a great program scheduled for the October 27-28 Congress in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Our guest speaker for the formal banquet Saturday evening is Dr. Allen C. Guelzo, a Henry R. Luce Professor of the Civil War Era, Gettysburg College. We will also have special tours of the Battlefield, as well as a behind the scenes look at the MOLLUS collection at the Gettysburg Museum.

It has been my distinct honor to serve as your Commander-in-Chief the past year and a half.

Captain James Alan Simmons  
 61st Commander-in-Chief  
 MOLLUS



## National Officers 2015-2017

### Commander-in-Chief:

Capt. James Alan Simmons  
 4304 Woodlake Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76135  
 redbarron5590@att.net

### Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief:

Col Eric Armando Rojo (DC)  
 4430 Tindall Street, NW Washington, DC 20016-2718  
 eric@er-x.com

### Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief:

Joseph Thomas Coleman, Ed.D. (PA)  
 85 Beddington Lane Strasburg, PA 17579-1451  
 drjtc30@comcast.net

### Registrar-in-Chief:

Michael Timothy Bates (DC)  
 8 Boice Ln Belle Mead, NJ 08502-4334  
 michael.t.bates@comcast.net

### Chancellor-in-Chief:

Adam Polhemus Flint  
 396 Colebrookdale Rd. Boyertown, PA 19512  
 484-415-9227 adampflint@aol.com

### Judge Advocate-in-Chief:

Gerald Fitzgerald Fisher, Esq. (NY), Chair  
 77 Seventh Avenue, Apt 16E New York, NY 10011  
 gerald\_f\_fisher@hotmail.com

### Recorder-in-Chief:

Capt. John Kent Kane, II USCGA  
 101 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Yorktown, VA 23692  
 757-898-6953 jkk28ga@cox.net

### Treasurer-in-Chief:

Lee Allan Tryon  
 4 Raven Circle, Avon, CT 06001-3317  
 860-676-9060 leetryon@comcast.net

### Surgeon-in-Chief:

Dr. Daniel Henry Heller (IN)  
 201 East Desert Park Ln Phoenix, AZ 85020-4075

### Chaplain-in-Chief:

Rev Robert G. Carroon, PCinC (CT)  
 24 Park Place #22A Hartford, CT 06106  
 jcarroon@aol.com

### Editor-in-Chief:

Robert E. Rock, Elizabeth Rock Ass't  
 68 W. Marion Street, Doylestown, OH 44230  
 330-212-9969 mollusjournal@aol.com

### National Webmaster:

William Forbes  
 104 Beacon Square, Wayne, PA 19087  
 will\_forbes99@yahoo.com

### Membership List Coordinator:

Keith Graham Harrison, PCinC (MI)  
 4209 Santa Clara Drive Holt, Michigan 48842-1868  
 517-694-9394 pcinc@prodigy.net

### National Historian:

Adam Gaines (MI)  
 293 Lakeside Drive Harrow, Ontario Canada N0R 1G0  
 gaines\_adam@hotmail.com

### Quartermaster:

Joseph T. Coleman, Ed.D.  
 85 Beddington Lane  
 Strasburg, PA 17579

### National Membership Contact

Laurence Alan Converse (TX)  
 17105 Northavens Cove Pflugerville, TX 78660  
 converse\_larry@yahoo.com

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**MOLLUS WEBSITE**

**Loyal Legion Historical Journal is now online!**  
<http://www.mollus.org>

**WELCOME NEW COMPANIONS**

The following Companions have joined the Military Order of the Loyal Legion since the Winter 2016 issue of the Journal. Commander-in-Chief James Simmons extends congratulations and a warm welcome to each one.

Insignia	Companion	Commandery
Hereditary:		
22700	William Henry Lilly	IN
22701	Tench Coxe Forbes	PA
22702	William Pack Holmes	PA
22703	Sumner Gary Hunnewell	PA
22704	Glenn David Reasoner	CA
Associate:		
A302	Kevin Lee Waldroup	IN
A303	David Joseph Certo	IN
A304	Stanley Charles Hurt	IN

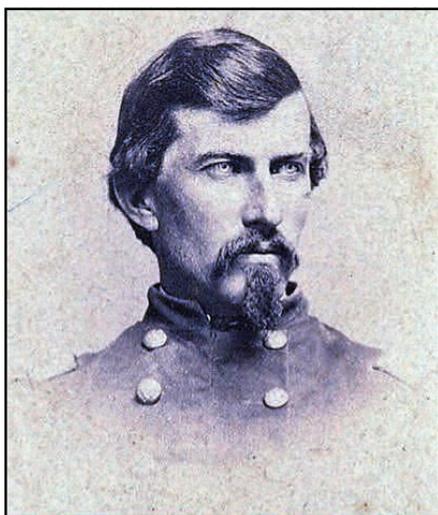
**Hereditary Member Recruitment**

New membership represents the future of our Order. In recognition of that fact, the Commandery-in-Chief honors those Companions who recruit three or more hereditary Companions during a membership year (October 1-September 30) with the Lincoln Medal Award. Companions who qualify for the Medal may receive the award at either the Annual Congress, the Mid-Winter meeting in Washington, or the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in Springfield. Please contact the Commander-in-Chief, or Membership Committee Chairman Col. Eric Armando Rojo, for more details.

***Remembering "MOLLUS" In Your Will***

After you provide for your family and other matters, would you consider including a memorial gift in you will to our hallowed Order? Your gift to the Loyal Legion Memorial Fund, which is tax deductible, would be used to support the preservation of battlefields, monuments and programs that serve to memorialize the Civil War. In this way you would be perpetuating the memory of your Civil War ancestors and fellow companions.

## Brevet Brigadier General James Monroe Williams, 1833-1907



James Monroe Williams came from a family like unnumbered others in America of that era. Born into a prosperous farming family in remote northern New York State, in 1833, he was the youngest of twelve children. His father, Absalom Williams, served in New York's 5th Brigade in the War of 1812. His maternal grandfather, Salmon Root, was a corporal in Judd's Company of Colonel Zebulon Butler's Fourth Connecticut Regiment from 1778 to 1783 in the American Revolution.

In 1844, with the opening of the Northwest Territory, Absalom Williams sold his farm and, with his large family in tow, migrated west to Wisconsin where he settled on a generous land grant. In 1853, James Williams, as the youngest child in the family, chose a different

path, studying law in Janesville. Having passed the bar in 1856, Williams saw opportunity for excitement in Kansas, which was embroiled in the crisis over whether or not it would become a slave or free state. He became a Jayhawker, recruited others, led raids into Missouri, and participated in excursions in "Lane's Brigade." With the advent of the Civil War, his team of Jayhawkers became Company F, 5th Kansas Cavalry, with him as commander.

Williams' time as a cavalry company commander in 1861-62 was successful in a number of engagements. He resigned in May of 1862, and at the urging of then U.S. Senator James Lane, set about recruiting and training a regiment of black men. He did so, in spite of opposition from many quarters, and produced the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment. It was the first black regiment raised in the northern states.

In late October of 1862, the 1st Kansas, still being manned, organized and trained, was sent across the border between Kansas and Missouri near the Bates County, Missouri town of Butler, responding to concerns of a Confederate force massing at a site known as Island Mound, on the Marais des Cygnes River. Assisted by a small team of six scouts from the 5th Kansas, the 1st Kansas fielded only 240 men. Approaching the Confederates, the scouts concluded there were as many as

700 Confederates (probably somewhat less), commanded by Colonel Vard Cockrell. After reconnaissance and skirmishes, the main part of the engagement took place on 29 October, when the opposing forces closed with each other on a rolling open prairie set aflame by the Confederates. Initial maneuvering and fire fights evolved into hand-to-hand combat. Ultimately, the 1st Kansas prevailed, and the Confederates presented a white flag asking to recover their dead. The 1st Kansas lost eight men killed, and eleven wounded. The Confederates did not report, but the bodies filled several wagons. Confederate prisoners later acknowledged at least 30-40 dead. The battle of Island Mound was the first engagement fought in the north by a black unit, and the first victory.

The 1st Kansas Colored was formally mustered into the Union Army, with Williams as its colonel, on 13 January, 1863. In late June, after skirmishes with guerrillas in southwest Missouri, Williams was given command of a task force headed into Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) to reinforce Federal troops at Fort Gibson (south of Muskogee) surrounded by Confederates. His command included the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry, and elements of the 2nd Colorado Infantry, 3rd Wisconsin Cavalry, 9th Kansas Cavalry, 3rd Indian Homeguards, 2nd Kansas

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Battery, and Armstrong's Battery. They also accompanied a wagon train with around two hundred wagon loads of supplies for the isolated Federals at Fort Gibson.

On 1 July 1863 as they arrived at a flooded crossing at Cabin Creek, in northeastern Indian Territory, they were confronted by Confederate pickets. Initial skirmishes resulted in several dead Confederates. On the opposite side of the water, Williams was facing a Confederate force commanded by Colonel (later Brigadier General) Stand Watie, which included the 1st Cherokee Regiment, 1st Cherokee/Creek Regiment, 5th Texas Partisan Rangers, and 29th Texas Cavalry Regiment. Troop strength on both sides was about the same, but there was a Confederate brigade under command of Brigadier General William Cabell enroute from Arkansas to reinforce Colonel Watie. The following morning, on the heels of an artillery barrage, Williams' men attacked across the chest deep water, and routed the Confederates. General Cabell was significantly delayed in supporting Watie because he was blocked by serious flooding of the Grand River.

A couple weeks later, on 17 July, at Honey Springs, Indian Territory, Williams and his regiment were in the center of a line of eight Federal regiments in two brigades commanded by

General James Blunt, facing off against ten regiments of Confederates, mostly Texans and Confederate Indians. When the battle erupted Williams received two wounds, one to his face and another to his chest. The battle proved to be a resounding victory for the Federals, with special commendation to the 1st Kansas. Williams recovered quickly and moved on further into Confederate territory.

Williams' campaign shifted east into Arkansas. After some engagements near Fort Smith, the 1st Kansas wintered over in northwestern Arkansas. In the following spring of 1864, Williams' regiment was part of General John Thayer's First Division in Major General Frederick Steele's VII Corps of three divisions in Arkansas. The VII Corps was moving south across Arkansas to link up with Major General Nathaniel Banks and Admiral David Porter's forces, moving up the Red River in Louisiana. Steele's corps had to fight its way south in a number of engagements with Confederate General Sterling Price's command, only to find out that the larger Army/Navy task force had failed, and retreated, after significant battles.

Steele moved his corps into Camden to refresh his command. Williams was sent out of Camden in an armed expedition through the desolated landscape to round up forage for 15,000 horses and mules in VII Corps.

His command included the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry, and elements of the 18th Iowa Infantry, 2nd Kansas Cavalry, 6th Kansas Cavalry, 14th Kansas Cavalry, 2nd Indiana Light Artillery, and 2nd Kansas Mountain Howitzers. The mission was successful, filling nearly 200 wagons with forage. As the column neared Camden, at a crossroad known as Poison Spring, it was attacked by a Confederate corps under General John Marmaduke, with twenty-two regiments. Williams, with only about seventeen hundred men successfully repelled three Confederate charges, before being overwhelmed. He managed to retreat into Camden, but lost 300 men, mostly from the 1st Kansas. A Confederate brigade commander, previously whipped by the 1st Kansas at Honey Spring, grudgingly admitted that the 1st Kansas "fire was extraordinarily heavy, and we began to believe the force against which we were contending was decidedly heavier than reported," and that his brigade was outnumbered by a force of four to one (the Confederates had three divisions, with six brigades). He noted that Williams' troops conducted a phased and orderly withdrawal.

Williams was subsequently involved in a number of engagements in Arkansas and Indian Territory over the next several months. His regiment was re-designated as the 79th USCT. Ultimately, in January of 1865, he received a brevet

*(Continued on page 6)*

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promotion to brigadier general, and placed in command of a brigade of six regiments. Shortly thereafter, he was placed in command of Federal troops in Arkansas north of the Arkansas River. There were a few more inconsequential engagements with Confederates, spiraling downward as the war came to a close. After the end of the war, he resumed command of his regiment, and returned to Kansas.

After the Civil War, Williams was able to secure a commission as a captain in the 8th US Cavalry. He served in Arizona and New Mexico as his regiment sought to subdue Indians. During that time, he received a brevet promotion to major for "conspicuous gallantry displayed in engagements with Indians" on the Verde River, Yampai Valley, and Music Mountains, in Arizona.

In July, 1867, Williams was badly wounded in an engagement in northwest Arizona, with arrow wounds to his spine and a kidney. He returned to duty in 1869, but chronically suffered from his wounds. With continuing pain and dissatisfaction over his relationship with a new regimental commander, he resigned from the Army in early 1873. He subsequently settled near Trinidad, Colorado.

In 1890, disabled, he relocated to Washington, D.C. with his wife and sons. That same year, in tribute to Williams, Colonel, and Brevet Major General, John

Irwin Gregg, who had been Williams' first commander in the 8th Cavalry, addressed the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, seeking to have Williams' commission re-activated, and retiring him as a captain of cavalry with a pension. That bill was Senate Bill 1037, and became law.

That same year Williams visited Leavenworth, Kansas, for a GAR reunion. He was feted by an enormous crowd of hundreds of his soldiers from the 1st Kansas, his brigade, a brass band, and representatives of nine black regiments. At the GAR meeting, there were many speeches, including one from a former soldier in the 54th Massachusetts, who traveled to acknowledge the accomplishments of Williams and his soldiers. The Leavenworth Times trumpeted his return to Kansas as "A perfect love feast. . . They think more of Colonel Williams than any man living today."

Williams never gave up. In 1898, despite his near invalid status, he wrote a letter to the Secretary of War, offering his services in the coming war with Spain. Somehow, America prevailed without him.

James Monroe Williams died in 1907, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. As a companion of MOLLUS, his life was honored by the Washington, D.C. Commandery, In Memoriam, Companion James Monroe Williams, Circular No. 7, Series of 1907.

As a final touch, the New York

Times, printing an obituary 16 February 1907, documented the death of General James M. Williams, in Washington, D.C., noting his birth at Lowville, New York. The narrative of his life confused him with another James Williams, and celebrated his service from private to colonel in the 21st Alabama Infantry. of the Confederate Army. The article also credited his post-war service as a founder of the first camp of Confederate Veterans in Alabama, after which he was noted to have been brevetted as a Major in the regular army for service in the Indian wars.

*Robert W. Lull*

THE NEXT ISSUE OF  
THE JOURNAL WILL  
BE A WWI  
COMMEMORATIVE  
ISSUE. PLEASE  
SUBMIT ANY  
BIOGRAPIES OF  
COMPANIONS THAT  
SERVED DURING  
WORLD WAR I, OR  
ANY OTHER WORLD  
WAR I RELATED TO  
MOLLUS ITEMS.  
DEADLINE  
AUGUST 15, 2017

## Ready to meet but too far to travel? Connect live with a MOLLUS On Line Meeting

One of the problems we have in MOLLUS today is, more often than not, the distance between Companions over large states, which make traveling to meetings cumbersome and costly. The same problem arises for Committee meetings at the State Commandery of National. And, we have a problem with timely communications. While email helps bridge part of the gap, the personal touch and conversation are missing. In order to help close this gap, MOLLUS National has subscribed to Go To Meeting, a service of Online meetings which include the most basic of functionalities that web conferencing tools provide. GoToMeeting has standard online meeting functionalities such as desktop sharing. This is mainly used when a presenter has information to share, e.g., a PowerPoint slide show. The meeting is in real time, any time, with all attendees participating, chatting and when the video is on, it is almost as good as being the same room.

**This service is available to ALL Commanderies, Committees and Commandery in Chief.**

At National, we have already broadcast the last National Congress in Florida and the Mid Winter Meeting in Washington, as well as for Committee meetings. We are learning to use it to ensure greater back and forth participation at the national meetings. But, most important is that it is available to all Commanderies and Committees. Pending a full update of the email roster, please contact me at [eric@er-x.com](mailto:eric@er-x.com) for an access code and password when you need to organize a meeting. The paid subscription we have covers our use.

GoToMeeting is designed to broadcast the desktop view of a host computer to a group of computers connected to the host through the Internet. Transmissions are protected with high-security encryption and optional passwords. By combining a web-hosted subscription service with software installed on the host computer, transmissions can be passed through highly restrictive firewalls. In addition to being able to make Power Point Presentations, there is also session recording, and annotation tools. It is recommended that we take the free training sessions the company offers at different times.

Go To Meeting features include: Mobile apps for iPad, iPhone and Android devices, Encryption and authentication security provided by a Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) Web site with end-to-end 128-bit Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) encryption and optional passwords, Multi-monitor support for a client PC, Meeting recording and playback for recording and saving meetings to a user desktop for later review, Total audio package provides toll based phone or conferencing via VoIP.

GoToMeeting hosts up to 51 users and multiple organizer while GoToMeeting Corporate offers up to 100 users with multiple organizer option. Try it, it will make for more meetings with more substance, and from our experience, fun, as we can chat just as if we were in the same room. -- Submitted by Col. Eric Rojo, Senior Vice Commander

### Helen Soden Brady Memorial Scholarship Fund

- 1. Only a DOLLUS member can nominate a person (male or female) to receive said scholarship. It should be stated the relationship of the applicant to the DOLLUS member, who is writing the request for this scholarship.**
- 2. Each letter must state the name, address and age of the applicant.**
- 3. Please list the college or university where the applicant will attend, the year in school, the course of study, and the year the applicant is expected to graduate.**
- 4. List any other activities and or awards received in school--also the applicant's Grade Point Average.**
- 5. List any activity in community service and any work experience.**
- 6. This letter of recommendation by a DOLLUS member is to be sent to the Chr. of the Helen Soden Brady Memorial Scholarship Fund and received by this Chr in June. If more than one person is recommended for this scholarship, the interest monies will be divided among those peoples recommended.**

**Miss Monie Upham, PNP, Chairman  
2323 40th Place NW #105  
Washington, DC 20007  
202-834-4993, [meupham@comcast.net](mailto:meupham@comcast.net)**

# The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

## 132nd National Congress October 27-29, 2017

### Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

The 132nd Annual Meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief will be held in Gettysburg, PA on Saturday, October 28th, 2017 for the transaction of such business as may properly come before the meeting. Headquarters will be at the Gettysburg Wyndham Hotel, 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg, PA 17325. (717)339-0020

### PROGRAM

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27th

4:00 to 6:00PM: Registration in the lobby of the Gettysburg Wyndham  
 6:00 to 9:00PM: Dinner at area Brew Pub, or on your own  
 9:00 PM: MOLLUS Suite for cocktails/camaraderie

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28th

6:30 to 8:30AM: Continental Breakfast Included  
 8:30 to 12:00PM: MOLLUS National Congress Meeting  
 8:30 to 12:00PM: DOLLUS National Congress Meeting  
 12:00 to 1:00PM: Lunch on your own  
 1:00 to 4:00PM: Tour of the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center with access to "behind the scenes" areas and MOLLUS artifacts stored at the Visitor Center. Transportation is on your own so you can determine the duration of tour, and visit the Park if desired.  
 6:00 to 7:00PM: Cocktail Hour (Cash Bar) at the Hotel  
 7:00 to 9:30PM: Formal Banquet (White or Black tie or military uniform w/decorations). Guest speaker is:  
**Dr. Allen C. Guelzo**  
 Henry R. Luce Professor of the Civil War Era  
 Gettysburg College  
 9:30 PM: MOLLUS Suite for cocktails/camaraderie

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29th

6:30 to 8:30AM: Breakfast On Your Own  
 9:00 to 11:00AM: Optional Battlefield Tour with guide  
 12:00PM: Hotel check-out and departure

### HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

You must contact the Gettysburg Wyndham Hotel for your reservations. You can reserve one night (Saturday) or two nights (Friday & Saturday). The cost is \$149.00, plus 11% tax per night. Contact them at 717-339-0020 and reference the MOLLUS event. Deadline for hotel reservations is September 26th (one month prior.) However, we would like your registration not later than September 1st.

#### SEND REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK (MOLLUS—PA) TO THE FOLLOWING:

BRIAN W. MALONEY  
 1090 BRIDGETOWN PIKE  
 LANGHORNE, PA 19053-7233

#### QUESTIONS and POINT-OF-CONTACT:

BRIAN MALONEY, Senior Vice Commander—PA  
 bwmaloney@verizon.net  
 215-801-4986 (Text OK)

## 132nd MOLLUS NATIONAL CONGRESS REGISTRATION FORM

This year we have adopted a “Prix Fixe” model for the weekend. The registration cost is \$100 and includes registration, admission to the Visitor Center, Museum, Cyclorama, and the Banquet. The only optional event is the Sunday morning tour of the Military Park. Cost will be determined by the number interested. Please indicate if you are interested.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

GUESTS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CIRCLE: T TO ACCEPT TEXT MSGS

REGISTRATION FEE: # IN PARTY \_\_\_\_\_ x \$100.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

(Check payee is MOLLUS—PA)

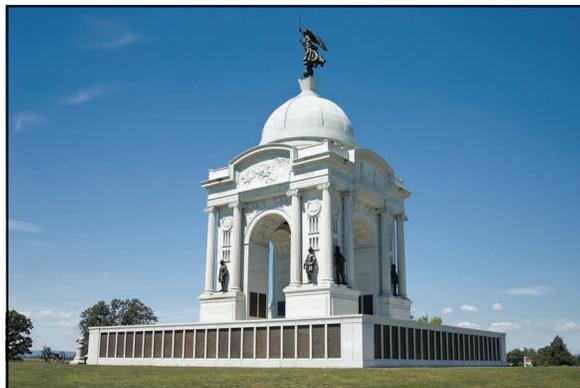
SELECT ONE ENTREE PER PERSON FOR THE BANQUET:

CHICKEN BREAST \_\_\_\_\_ FLAT IRON STEAK \_\_\_\_\_ SALMON \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK HERE \_\_\_\_\_ IF INTERESTED IN OPTIONAL TOUR OF PARK ON  
SUNDAY MORNING

MOLLUS

DOLLUS



*(Continued from page 1)*

The writer was very curious as to why his great granduncle, Joseph, chose to resign his commission prior to expiration of the enlistment period. Was it because, at age 43, he did not have the physical stamina to withstand the campaigning of the regiment in the field? Was it due to the mental toll and agony of ministering to young (almost boys) soldiers with horrific wounds – many of whom were to die? (He would surely have to comfort them with assurances of spiritual salvation and, perhaps, write down their final words to their families.) The writer was pretty much resigned to the idea that he would probably never know the answer to this question and could only speculate. A visit to the Indiana state archives in Indianapolis provided the answer in no uncertain terms!

The archives have copious records (primarily in the form of microfilm reels) on all the Indiana military units that participated in the civil war including, of course, the 33rd Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The writer found several documents pertaining to Joseph Lewis Irwin; some of it in his Joseph's own hand! The illuminating "nugget" was a letter, dated 23 April 1863, from Joseph to the governor of the state of Indiana, during the civil war period, Oliver P. Morton. This letter explains his "sudden" resignation as chaplain and offers his further service to "his country." In summary, the letter indicates that most of his immediate family (probably 6, including his wife – out of 10) had contracted typhoid fever and that his wife, Fanny, had died. He stated that he had to get back to his home to bury his wife and tend to his children and other business. Although the letter was written only about two months after he resigned his chaplaincy, he was also offering his further services to the Union but he did indicate a preference for a position as a hospital chaplain rather than a field chaplain (perhaps he was dubious of his abilities to serve effectively with a campaigning army). The writer has not found any evidence that Joseph did provide any further service to the Union after his resignation.

After the war ended, Joseph took a second wife, Mary Jane Catterson (c. 1841 – unknown) and,

together, they had three children. They were married in Indiana on 20 May 1867 and it appears the family lived in Illinois from about 1868 until 1869 or 1870. Joseph attended Shurtleff College Seminary in Alton, Illinois during this time. The family moved back to Knox County, Indiana and, in March 1870, Joseph once again became pastor of the Maria Creek Baptist Church. He remained in this position until November 1872. Information has not been found regarding Joseph nor his second family from this point until Joseph's death on 19 July 1879 in Judson, White County, Arkansas. Joseph Lewis Irwin is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery in Judson, Arkansas. His headstone is of the military style and the inscription simply reads "J.L. IRWIN CHAPLAIN 33RD IND. INF."

An interesting and poignant postscript can be mentioned here. Two of the sons of Joseph and Fanny, Benjamin H. and Joseph Lewis, Jr. enlisted in the 70th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment on 27 February 1864 and this regiment was attached to General William T. Sherman's force during the Atlanta and "march to the sea" campaigns of 1864. In the battle of Kennesaw Mountain, on 25 June 1864, Benjamin sustained a serious wound to the shoulder and his arm was amputated in a field hospital. He was sent, by ambulance train, to a Union general hospital in Chattanooga, Tennessee. After surviving several months, Benjamin died on 16 September 1864 at the age of 18. It is not known whether he was one of Joseph's family who survived the typhoid fever infection but, if so, the irony is evident. In any event, Benjamin represents just one of hundreds of thousands of America's youth that perished during the civil war. Benjamin's brother Joseph Lewis, Jr. survived the war and lived until 1906 (age 60).

Attachments:

Photo of Joseph Lewis Irwin. He is wearing the regulation Union army uniform for chaplains. Visible is the 9-button frock coat with dark buttons (rather than shiny brass buttons)

**This brief biography of Joseph Lewis Irwin was written by his great grandnephew, Robert B. Irwin. Written: 1 April 2017, Tucson, Arizona**

# COMMANDERY NEWS

## INDIANA



“On April 3, 2017, under the watchful gaze of Companion President Benjamin Harrison, Indiana Loyal Legion Commander Jefferson D. Lilly II (right) presents a check in the amount of \$1,500.00 to Charles Hyde, President and CEO of the Benjamin Harrison Home Presidential Site in Indianapolis, to underwrite the

home’s Independence Day celebration. The Commandery will be recognized in stage, print, email and social media outlets for its support. Events will include a naturalization ceremony, games for children, music and other patriotic programming. The Indiana Commandery is also undertaking a comprehensive census of all Original Companions who served from Indiana with the intention of placing a Loyal Legion metal rosette post marker at their graveside.”

Loyally,  
Jeff Lilly

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEW YORK

The Annual Meeting of the New York Commandery of The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States was called to order by

Commander Gerald F. Fisher at 8:00 PM at the 3 West Club, 3 West 51st Street, in New York City



on Tuesday, May 9th, 2017.

After an excellent dinner, reports were made for the Recorder, Registrar, Treasurer, Senior Vice Commander, and Commander which were well received.

The previous meetings minutes were read and the Treasurers report was received and we are up to date with all necessary administrative and tax related filings.

The Registrar's report welcomed Mr. Jonathan Jensen as a new hereditary member.

A review of recent activities were made by Commander Fisher, who noted that our monthly meetings including a rotating luncheon had been generally well attended with many administrative items dealt with at the meetings.

Commander Fisher commented on the Commandery’s support of the Grant Monument Association, and the ROTC program at Princeton University where the annual awards to two cadets were presented by Col. Schneider. He also reported that Junior Vice Commander, LT Ryan B. Weddle,

*(Continued on page 12)*

(Continued from page 11)



NY-MOLLUS award and check being presented by NROTC Rutgers CO CAPT David Wright to Midshipman Jack Taubl.

USN had presented our NROTC award to a midshipman in the Rutgers University NROTC program in early April.

LT Weddle presented a report on activities noting that the Commandery would continue to pursue its luncheons at new club venues in midtown Manhattan.

Commander Fisher reported on the transfer archives of the New York Commandery with the Abraham Lincoln Foundation. We transferred our records and archives to that organization, which is based in Philadelphia and which will digitize the majority of the records for research use by scholars and the general public.

The report of the Nominating Committee chaired by PCinC Kinny Post was presented and the slate of officers so presented was unanimously elected:

- Commander: LT Ryan B. Weddle, USN
- Vice Commander: COL Paul A. Schneider, USA (ret)
- Junior Vice Commander: Mr. Brian Ross Owens
- Recorder: Mr. Angelo A. Sedacca
- Treasurer: Gerald F. Fisher, Esq.
- Chancellor: Thomas L. Tedeschi, Esq.
- Registrar: LT Ryan B. Weddle, USN
- Council: Mr. Thomas M. McCarter, III (PCinC)

- COL Robert J. Bateman, NYSG (PCinC)
- Mr. Waldron K. Post (PCinC)
- Gerald F. Fisher, Esq.
- COL Donald L. Twiss, VCASNY
- Historian: Mr. William B. Style
- Physician: Dr. Richard G. McCarrick
- Commander Emeritus: Gerald F. Fisher, Esq.

The change of command was formally completed by the transfer of the Commander's Star to LT Weddle.



Brief comments were made by former Commander-Fisher and new Commander Weddle who thanked Commander Fisher for his many decades of service to the New York Commandery, and spoke on the outlook for the future to continue the growth and interest in recruiting members and appealing events to prospective participants.



Transfer of the Commander's Star

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## OHIO

The Ohio Commandery held their spring meeting in Lancaster, Ohio, the home and birthplace of General William Tecumseh Sherman on April 29th. Companions enjoyed a luncheon at the Ale House 1890, a historic pub showcasing the history of downtown. Companions and guests then walked over to the Sherman House Museum, and presented a beautiful plaque donated by the Commandery. The next Ohio Commandery meeting will be held on September 9, 2017 at historic Zoar Village, Ohio



in conjunction with the Civil War Re-enactment and Living History weekend. We invite all Companions to join us. Details will be posted on our Facebook page: Ohio Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion  
 For more information on the re-enactment weekend, visit <http://www.zoarcivilwar.com/>  
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## VIRGINIA

Five ROTC cadets from three battalions in Virginia wear the ROTC Medal of Merit after recognition by the Virginia Commandery. Cadets Maxwell Coleman, a freshman International Studies major at the University of Richmond, and Steven R. Hall, a sophomore at Hampden-Sydney College studying Foreign Affairs, are members of the Spider Battalion at the University of Richmond.

PC-in-C Jeffry Burden presented Cadet Maxwell his award on April 11.



Cadets John McDermott of Christopher Newport University (freshman History major) and David Enyedy of the College of William & Mary (freshman undeclared major) received their awards on April 5 from Revolutionary Guards Battalion commander Lt. Col. James Kimbrough.



Companion Edmund Potter presented the Medal of Merit to Cadet Elisa Bakker at Mary Baldwin College on April 21. Cadet Bakker is a sophomore International Studies major. She is a member of the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership (VWIL).

Another in a continuing series of...

# Where Our Money Goes

~The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum~

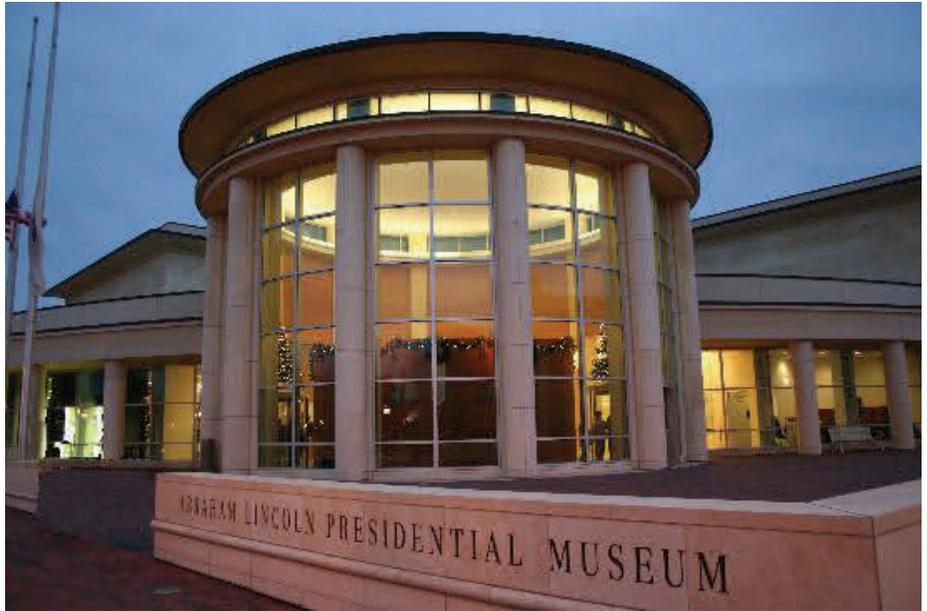
The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum was dedicated in April of 2005, by President George Walker Bush and First Lady Laura Bush. MOLLUS was there in Springfield, Illinois from the beginning, and has granted this Institution thousands of dollars over the past

12 years. Since 2012, your Loyal Legion Memorial Fund Trustees have increased this particular grant amount to \$700 per year. The standing National Committee on Historic and Preservation Grants,

reviews and submits it's recommended list of grant recipients each October to the Memorial Fund Trustees, who then approve, or disapprove each prospective project.

This year, \$11,800 was granted to 16 different Civil War related Organizations and Memorials. As MOLLUS Companions, you are part of this process. If you know of a worthy preservation project, Memorial, or CW related Organization, submit your detailed information with contacts to the Committee Chair. This can be suggested as a one time grant, or possibly an annual ongoing gift. We generally do not furnish "seed money" for start up projects.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is not one of the 13 current Presidential Libraries run by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). It is administered by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, and since its opening, has ranked as America's most visited state controlled Presidential Museum. We encourage you to support and visit this Institution. I personally invite you to come to the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony next April in Springfield, and visit the Museum with your fellow Companions. The Library, like other Presidential Libraries, requires reservations for research by Scholars, Historians, and Citizens.



*Submitted by*

*Captain James Alan Simmons, 61st Commander-in-Chief, MOLLUS*

## William Sturgis Bond

was born on March 20, 1838 in Chelsea, Mass. to George William Bond and Sophia Augusta May. Growing up in the Boston area, he appears to have gotten an excellent education probably due to his father's wealth. In 1855, Bond was accepted into Harvard University and began his studies. He apparently remained in the family home while attending Harvard. In 1859, he graduated from Harvard with an undergraduate degree. After his graduation, he became employed as a clerk. On June 20, 1861, he enlisted as a private in the Independent Corps of Cadets; this unit was almost entirely composed of Harvard graduates. For the rest of 1861 to early part of 1862, the Cadets were assigned to guard the state house and the state arsenal. On May 26, 1862, for the first time in history, the Cadets, along with Private William Bond were mustered into federal service and reported to Fort Warren in the Boston Harbor. During their state service, the Corps still wore their grey field uniform; however, when they entered federal service they were issued blue uniforms. While at Fort Warren, they were assigned to guard Confederate POWs. They remained at Fort Warren guarding POWs until July 2, 1862. After their release from federal service, President Lincoln called on Union states to furnish militia units for 9th months service to release the army so it do more important service in the war. The Corps of Cadets was assigned to organize the 45th Massachusetts Infantry. After the organization, William Sturgis Bond was commissioned a 1st. Lt. of Co. B. The regiment did their training at Camp Meigs, Reedville, Mass. After their training, the entire regiment was mustered into federal service on Sept. 26, 1862. After being mustered into service they took the steamer "Mississippi" down to North Carolina. The voyage took 9 days. When they arrived in North Carolina, they were stationed at Camp Amory, which was near Newbern. When they were settled into to Camp Amory, they began the monotonous life of daily guard duty and drills. December 13-14, 1862, the regiment took part in the Battle of Kinston. After the battle, the regiment made camp in Kinston. Here, they took part in small skirmishes and did drill and guard duty. On May 24, 1863, the 45th was taken by train to Newbern. They remained in Newbern until June 23, when they took the train to Beaufort, NC. The next day, the regiment marched aboard the steamer "Spaulding" for the trip back to Boston. This voyage took 5 days. When they arrived in Boston Harbor, they were escorted by Cadets and members of the Massachusetts Rifle Club to the State House, where they were given a reception by Governor John Andrew. After the reception, they went to Camp Meigs where they turned over their arms and equipment. They were given a furlough until the following Monday. On July 7, 1863, they were mustered out of federal service. After his service in the Civil War, Bond joined his father and became a wool merchant which he was very successful at. His patriotic spirit didn't end with his service as in 1864, he was a elected a member of the Union Club of Boston. Apparently, his desire to reconnect with his fellow veteran officers happened not long after the Civil War, as on January 5, 1869, Bond was elected a Companion of the First Class and was assigned Insignia No. 986. Since he was unmarried, he continued to live in the family home. He also remained very active in the affairs of fellow Corps of Cadet Civil War veterans. In 1877, he became a Charter Member of the Veteran Association of the Independent Corps of Cadets. The Corps of Cadets had a 25th Anniversary gathering for the veterans who had been mustered into federal service in 1862. Bond visited Fort Warren and went to the 25th Anniversary dinner in 1887. All through his life he had been involved in Harvard University. He made sure that he was listed in all the directories and did make a \$250 donation to the construction of Memorial Hall at Harvard. Unfortunately, on March 18, 1899, former Lt. Bond passed away of apoplexy in the home that he had resided in almost his entire life.



*By Adam Gaines*

Military Order of the Loyal Legion  
 Keith Harrison  
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