

Loyal Legion

HISTORICAL JOURNAL



www.mollus.org

Spring 2019



Solemn Festivities in Honor of Lincoln's 210th Birthday

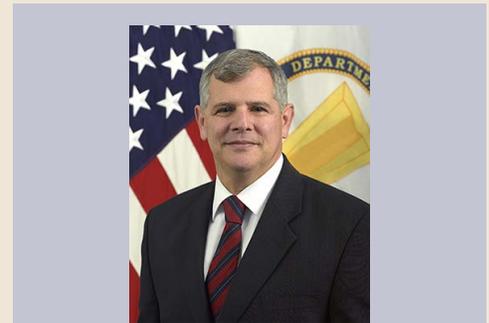
Presentations, observances business and-fellowship mark event.

Companions and Dames of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion came to Washington, D.C. once again for the observance of Abraham Lincoln's birth. The celebrations consisted of variations on activities conducted by the Military Order of the Loyal Legion to honor Lincoln for more than 136 years in the Nation's Capital. While the festivities of a birthday celebration allow the participants to reflect with gratitude on the great gifts that Lincoln's life and thought made to our democracy, there is a solemnity be-

cause of the importance and seriousness of what he lived and died for. So in the course of two days in February, there was a banquet celebrating Lincoln's birth, lectures on history, an earnest acknowledgement of the contributions of Lincoln to the preservation of the Union, and business meetings of Companions and Dames.

On Sunday, February 10, some early arrivals to the events took a trip to the Museum of the American Indian. The exhibitions covered the stories and artifacts of Indians of

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Dalessandro Named Honorary Companion

Col. Robert J. Dalessandro, USA (Ret.) was named an Honorary Companion of the Loyal Legion during the Mid-Winter Meeting in February. Col. Dalessandro is currently the Deputy Secretary for the American Battle Monuments Commission based in Arlington, Virginia. As a retired Army officer, and former chief of the U.S. Army Center of Military History, and

Continued on p. 7

MOLLUS Constitution and Bylaws Changes Proposed

Thorough review suggested before vote during 2019 Congress.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee is currently reviewing a draft with several proposed changes to the Loyal Legion's governing documents. Please watch for news on the final version of the proposed changes to arrive via email to each Commandery to ensure they are reviewed, discussed, and voted on prior to the Congress in October. We look forward to a lively discussion before a vote by all Commanderies during the Congress. ✿

Loyal Legion Needs Your Participation!

Leadership and committee positions available.

The 2019 Annual Congress held October 11-13 will be highlighted by the election of Loyal Legion officers. Visit <http://suvcw.org/mollus/committees2017-2019.pdf> for a list of elected officers (18), appointed officers (7), standing committees and special committees. We are always looking for "new talent" and experienced Companions not currently in any official capacity to fill leadership positions and help on our large number of committees. If you feel that you have the time and interest to volunteer, please review the job descriptions on the website for all positions and committees and let us know how you would like to help. You can contact either Past Commanders-in-Chief Jim Simmons (redbarron5990@att.net) or Kinny Post (Waldronpo@yahoo.com) for elected positions or Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Joe Coleman (drjtc30@comcast.net) for appointed or committee positions. ✿



Col. Eric A. Rojo
2017-2019 Commander-in-Chief

It is my pleasure to report that many members of the Loyal Legion enjoyed another productive and successful national Mid-Winter Meeting. There were some important changes to our order of business. Over the past many years, our business meetings have been rushed because of a compressed time schedule. This year, we held an all-day business meeting providing us the opportunity to give all agenda items appropriate attention. We offered the ability to participate on-line in real time using GoToMeeting, allowing more members to participate in the session. Also, as part of the change, we deferred any tours to the host committee to offer as an option at a time convenient to those in attendance. In time, we will find ways to accommodate all activities.

It is with great pride that, once more, we recognize and applaud the immense effort on the part of Peter and Joan Dixon to make the Mid-Winter Meeting and Lincoln Birthday Celebration a successful event year after year. At the same time, I express my sadness that they have decided (and I agree) to let a new generation take over the planning and execution of the event. I quote from their note “With our many years of planning these meetings, Joan and I have enjoyed the results, but it is time for others to take over, and we will help where we can. There are many talented people in MOLLUS who would like to see these meetings continued, and we want to particularly thank John Moore, D.C. Commander, for his involvement and help.”

With this change, it is a good time to bring together the many groups that help to organize the Mid-Winter Meeting and Lincoln Birthday Celebration to assess the event and determine if there is a need to improve or revise our planning process, realign responsibilities, and create a more accommodating program. In addition, the 2020 event should include new activities that focus on the celebration of the Centennial of the Lincoln Memorial. Planning by the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service is underway and I will be reaching out to them to determine ways that the Loyal Legion become involved in the commemoration.

We are a hereditary society and it is our obligation to keep our heritage alive, no one else can do it for us. Please review the upcoming events listed on page 4. I encourage you to attend as many as possible, as well as to contribute news, photos, and historical articles that will enrich the *Journal*. Keeping our heritage alive only happens when you choose to participate.

If you have an interest in participating as an officer or committee member, please let us know (see page 1). Helen Higgins, our new assistant webmaster, is helping us to build a more informative MOLLUS website, so please check it often.

We are a Legion of equals, it is only our personal interest in the Order that allows the organization to grow and thrive. It is important that we all give our time and talent to our fullest extent. Many of the principles of our Republic for which our founders and ancestors fought and died for are under siege today, it is up to us to ensure “that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

— Colonel Eric A. Rojo



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Honorary Companion

Robert Joseph Dalessandro, 22762 DC
Retired US Army Colonel, former Director of the Center of Military History, current Deputy Secretary American Battle Monuments Commission.

Hereditary Companions

Samuel Martin Keith, 22763 WI
Captain William Adkins Keith, Co H, 10th IL Vol. Cav.

Richard Oliver Schwab, Jr., 22764 NY
Captain William S. Carlile, Co F, 31st OH Vol. Inf. ☞



A lively discussion at the Loyal Legion business meeting.

TEE ADAMS PHOTO



LOYAL LEGION
HISTORICAL JOURNAL

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Joseph Thomas Coleman, Ed.D.

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief
Col. Robert D. Pollock

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Dr. Gary Grove

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Lt. Ryan B. Weddle

The *Loyal Legion Historical Journal* is a quarterly publication 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 by members and the public. Articles and news should be submitted to Shawn Beyer, Editor (shawnbeyer1@verizon.net). Content must be formatted in MS Word and submitted electronically. High resolution photographs and artwork should be submitted in JPG format and be accompanied by a description or caption.

Submission deadlines are the 15th of February, May, August, and November.

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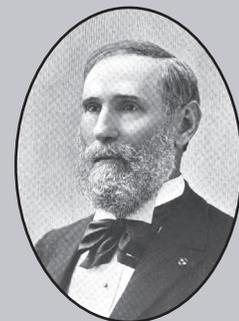
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UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 2019

13 Lincoln Tomb Ceremony
Springfield, IL

MAY 2019

30 Memorial Day Wreath Laying
Arlington, VA

JUNE 2019

5 Annual Meeting PA Commandery
Essington, PA

JULY 2019

31 MOLLUS Commandery Assessment
Due

AUGUST 2019

2 Deadline for C-in-C Award
Nominations

OCTOBER 2019

11-13 MOLLUS Congress
Philadelphia, PA

NOVEMBER 2019

11 Veterans Day
23 Gettysburg Remembrance Day
Gettysburg, PA

Note: Commandery events are welcome for inclusion on the calendar as space permits. Event, date and contact information should be sent to the editor at shawnbeyer1@verizon.net.

DAMES OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES



President's Message

Greetings! I hope this message finds you well and in good spirits as we anxiously await the warmer weather of the springtime.

On February 12, although the weather was not the best, we had a wonderful turnout for the ceremonies honoring the 210th birthday of President Abraham Lincoln. The National Park Service, Military Honor Guard, and Mr. Peter Dixon held a very patriotic program in the Lincoln Memorial. After the traditional wreath laying we all adjourned to the Sheraton Suites in Alexandria for lunch and fellowship. With February now behind us, we set our sights on memorializing President Lincoln on the anniversary of his death in April at the Lincoln Monument in Springfield, Illinois. Please consider joining us, all are welcome.

At our meeting in February a new marketing tool was approved. It is a trifold brochure that can be used by members to tell others about us. The final edition will be going to the printer soon. If you are interested in receiving a supply of these brochures for your use to recruit new members, please email me (squirrelocnj@aol.com) and I will see that you get a supply.

I am looking for a few members to join a committee to study our Helen Soden Brady Scholarship program. We need to study the history of the scholarship funds to see if we can sustain the program and to see how we can better serve our eligible candidates. If you are interested, please contact me.

Our annual donation to the Lincoln Cottage has been made. The Dames of the Loyal Legion is listed on Team Lincoln and our donation is used to supplement programs that are offered at the Cottage. If you wish to visit the Lincoln Cottage be sure to mention the Dames and that we are on Team Lincoln.

Plans are now being made for our Annual Assembly meeting in October. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Military Order of the Loyal Legion and will take place in Philadelphia on the weekend of October 11-13, 2019. Once again, all are welcome and I encourage all Dames to attend. It is always a productive meeting and I look forward to seeing long time friends and making new ones.

As we move forward, let us remember to do our best to recruit women who would like to honor their Civil War ancestor and would enjoy being a member of our Order. This is an exciting time for the Dames, as we hold true and fast to our traditions, yet at the same time embrace new technology that will help our Order grow. I welcome your thoughts and suggestions.

—Ellen M. Higgins
DOLLUS National President



TEE ADAMS PHOTO

Presentation of the DOLLUS wreath during the Lincoln Memorial Ceremony.

Remembering DOLLUS' Dedication of Memorials at National Cathedral

Caren Cleaveland, DOLLUS Historian

The beginnings of what may prove to be a hall of fame for Americans great and good in Washington Cathedral were made during April 1931, in the dedication of memorial tablets for Lt. General Nelson A. Miles, and Francis Scott Key on the walls of the crypt corridor beneath the south aisle of the nave.

The marble tablet erected by the National Society of the Dames of the Loyal Legion for General Miles, Commander of the United States forces in the War with Spain, was unveiled at an impressive service on Sunday, April 20, 1931, conducted by the Bishop of Washington, assisted by the Dean and Canon Peter.

Lieutenant Miles Reber, grandson of General Miles, unveiled the tablet following its presentation by Mary Logan Tucker of Washington, National First Vice President of the Dames of the Loyal Legion. Mrs. Samuel Reber, daughter of General Miles, was also present at the ceremony.

The tablet, designed by Frances Grimes of New York City, who was a pupil and assistant of Saint Gaudens, contains a bas relief portrait of General Miles and is considered to be a work of sculptural distinction. It is inscribed, "In Memory of Nelson Appletown Miles, Lieutenant General, United States Army. Division Commander in the Civil War. Conqueror and Conciliator of Indian Tribes. Commanding General of the Army in the War with Spain. Commander in Chief Military Order of the Loyal Legion. This tablet is erected by the Dames of the Loyal Legion."

In his address which followed the unveiling of the tablet, Bishop Freeman paid tribute to the many achievements of General Miles.

Music for the service included several patriotic hymns sung by the Cathedral choir of men and boys, under the direction of Edgar Priest, organist and choirmaster.

The following Sunday another group of patriotic women assembled in the Cathedral crypt to honor Francis Scott Key and the dedication of his memorial. Mary Tucker also presented the Key tablet.

Both memorials are viewed by hundreds of pilgrims each week as they pass through the nave crypt going from the chapels to the Curator's office.

Nelson Appleton Miles (1839-1925)

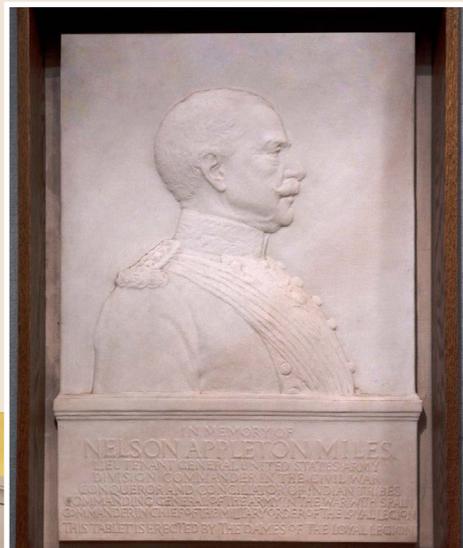
Called a "brave peacock" by President Theodore Roosevelt toward the end of his service, General Nelson A. Miles (Insignia #1818) no doubt felt he had cause to be proud of his accomplishments in a career that had lifted a volunteer infantryman to the office of commander of the army.

Born on his family's Massachusetts farm, Miles was a clerk in a crockery store when the Civil War broke out. He joined the army as a volunteer and fought for the Union in some of the war's most crucial battles, including Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and the Appomattox campaign. Wounded four times, he rose in rank to become a major general of volunteers and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his personal bravery at Chancellorsville.

After the Civil War, Miles played a leading role in nearly every phase of the army's campaign against the tribes of the Great Plains.

In his later years, Miles commanded the troops that put down the Pullman strike riots in 1894, and was commander of the army during the Spanish-American

War. He retired from service in 1903, confirmed in his belief that graduates of West Point had an unfair advantage in promotion and were on the whole less capable of command than those who rose through the ranks as he had.



WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL ARCHIVES

Top: Nelson Appleton Miles tablet.



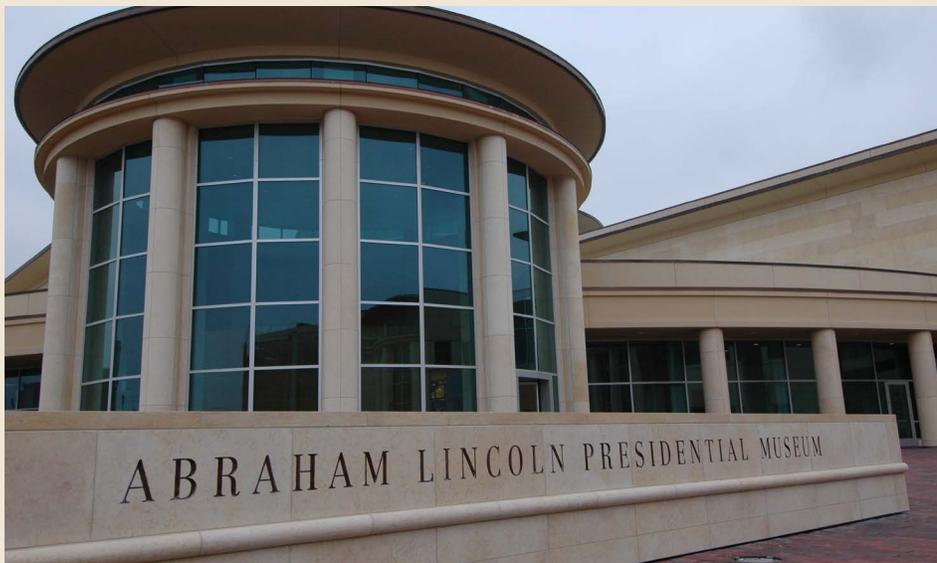
Left: Ellen Higgins, DOLLUS President, viewing the Gen. Miles tablet at the National Cathedral.

General Nelson A. Miles was an enthusiastic Companion of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion. He was elected a Companion of the First Class through the Commandery of Massachusetts on May 1, 1878, and was assigned Insignia No. 1818. In 1919, General Miles was elected Commander-in-Chief serving in that capacity until his death in 1925. ❁

Sources:

"Cathedral Age," *Mid-Summer*, 1931.

"PBS-The West/People"



Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM) located in Springfield, Illinois had a remarkable year in 2018. It was the 200th anniversary of President Lincoln's home state of Illinois, so it was only fitting that the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum curate the exceptional exhibit "From Illinois to the White House: Lincoln, Grant, Reagan, and Obama," which was touted as the centerpiece of the state's bicentennial celebration.

The exhibit contains personal effects and documents from each of the four Illinois presidents, analyzes the close ties the four have had to the state, and how Illinois' history, location, and population make it a microcosm of America and a perfect training ground for national leaders. Almost 60 author and family-friendly events were presented through the end of the calendar year, and the ALPLM continued to be a destination of choice for teachers and students alike. Also in 2018, the ALPLM partnered with the Gilder Lehrman Institute to host a teachers' workshop on Lincoln. This is in addition to the more than 75,000 students participating in 1,700 school tours throughout the year.

Abraham Lincoln's global reach was extended with the Eleventh Lincoln Leadership Prize being presented to former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, raising much needed support for the collection once owned by collector Louise Taper, to ensure the collection remains in perpetuity at the ALPLM, further advancing Lincoln's rich and profound legacy.

Some of the collection's rarest items include: Abraham Lincoln's presidential seal with bits of red sealing wax still lodged in its mold, a cypher book page on which Abraham the teenager calculates his long division, and an effigy doll of presidential candidate Lincoln which, with the pull of a tissue veil, reveals Lincoln in blackface. More than 2,000 people from across the nation and around the world have donated to the campaign to ensure a permanent home for the collection at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Foundation was incorporated in 2000 to assist with private sector fundraising for ALPLM. The Foundation is one of 14 not-for-profit 501(c) 3 organizations currently supported by the Loyal Legion Memorial Fund. ❁

SAVE *the* DATE

134th Loyal Legion Congress
October 11-13, 2019

This year's Congress will be held at the Union League of Philadelphia on October 11-13. Details will be posted on mollus.org and in the next issue of the *Loyal Legion Historical Journal* ❁

TRUSTEES' CORNER

Generosity of Companions Impact Future of Order

The Trustees were recently gratified to learn of another gift from the estate of a Loyal Legion member. These kinds of gifts are vitally important to the future of the Memorial Fund. They help the Fund to meet its regular yearly obligations and continue to do good works while maintaining a healthy investment balance. And, such gifts offer tax advantages to the giver's estate as well.

We are humbled by the generosity of our late Companions. If you have any questions about how to make such a gift, please contact Jeffry Burden at richburd6165@yahoo.com.

Also, a reminder: the Lincoln Death Day observance in Springfield, Illinois is on Saturday, April 13. This is one of the events that the Fund supports annually, in conjunction with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. All Companions and Dames are invited to attend and enjoy this fitting tribute to our sixteenth President! ❁

Highlights from the Lincoln Memorial Ceremony



Photos courtesy of the Lincoln Highway National Museum and Archives.

Clockwise from top left:

The sounding of taps by USAF Brass Quintet Bugler.

Commander-in-Chief Eric Rojo (left) reading the President's letter with Peter Dixon

Lt Col. Ronnelle Armstrong, USAF, Senior Chaplain, The White House Military Office (at lectern) offers an invocation with Peter Dixon (right)

Kristy Bay, Lincoln Memorial University, singing the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

Peter Dixon (right) introduces the Joint Armed Forces Color Guard. ❁

TEE ADAMS PHOTO



Col. Robert Dalessandro (right) receiving honorary membership from D.C. Commander John Moore (center) and Commander-in-Chief Eric Rojo.

Dalessandro, from p. 1.

chairman of the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission, Dalessandro's years of commitment to preserving our nation's military heritage will contribute a wealth of expertise to the Loyal Legion.

Rob Dalessandro is a historian and author who has written several books and presented extensively on the American Expeditionary Forces' contributions to the First World War. He has had a lifelong passion for military history and the material culture of the American soldier and is considered one of the Army's foremost experts on battlefield interpretation.

As a new Honorary Companion, Robert Dalessandro will be engaged as a member of the national Committee on Loyal Legion History and Preservation focusing on efforts to gather and preserve the history of the Order. ❁



Past Commander-in-Chief Star

The executive committee approved the creation of a Past Commander-in-Chief Star. While MOLLUS has had available for a number of years a Past Commander's Star, modeled after the Commander-in-Chief Star created by Tiffany & Co., the executive committee felt the need to commission a distinctive insignia for our Past Commanders-in-Chief. The new star is the insignia of the Order mounted on a silver tone starburst. Past Commander-in-Chiefs interested in purchasing the new star should contact National Quartermaster Joe Coleman at (drjtc30@comcast.net). ❁



Dr. Janet Morgan Riggs (right) reciting Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Inspirational Words from Gettysburg College President Riggs During Lincoln Memorial Ceremony

Dr. Janet Morgan Riggs read Lincoln's Gettysburg Address during a ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial on February 12, 2019. Here is an excerpt of her thought-provoking remarks that followed.

I feel profoundly honored and humbled to have stood before you and read those awe-inspiring words [President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address] here at the Lincoln Memorial.

As the president of Gettysburg College, I feel a strong connection to our sixteenth president. In July of 1863, the Battle of Gettysburg swept through the Gettysburg College campus—and the building in which I currently have an office, Pennsylvania Hall, was seized as a field hospital.

Following the battle, Pennsylvania Governor Andrew Curtin asked a local attorney, David Wills, to procure the land to bury those who had fallen during the Battle. David Wills was an alumnus of Gettysburg College—a member of the class of 1851.

David Wills helped to plan the cemetery's dedication, and he personally invited President Abraham Lincoln to attend and to "say a few appropriate remarks."

Wills and his wife hosted President Lincoln in their home the evening before the dedication. And the next morning, on November 19, 1863, our students and

faculty walked to the center of town, where they joined the townspeople outside of the Wills house, and followed President Lincoln out to the cemetery for the dedication ceremony. They were the first to hear the "Gettysburg Address."

Each year, when we welcome our first-year students into our community in late August, we recreate that walk from campus. Passing monuments and grave markers honoring those who fought for our country, our students arrive at the cemetery—and they, too, have the opportunity to hear the Gettysburg Address on those hallowed grounds.

This tradition serves as a defining moment for many of our new students, who come to Gettysburg from across the country and around the world. It reinforces for them the significance of the historic place in which they will spend the next four years. And it is our hope that they will be inspired to dedicate themselves to the values that Abraham Lincoln lifted up—and the unfinished work still before our nation and the world. For Lincoln's address

is a timeless and personal call to each one of us, a call truly for the people.

At a time when there is so much divisiveness in our country and such angry rhetoric... a time when so many within our nation continue to have to fight for respect and dignity and equality, I also think of President Lincoln's first Inaugural Address. He said to those gathered before him: "We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

It is time for all of us to consider Lincoln's call to our nation for equality—his call for a new birth of freedom—to be a personal call. For the unfinished work still before our nation must be carried out by each one of us, every day. Let us all be led by those better angels.☀

Lincoln's Birthday, from p. 1.

both North and South America, and relations between Indian Nations and the United States. There was a moving statue at the entrance to the exhibit on Indian-United States treaties called Allies in War, Partners in Peace. The visitors returned to Alexandria for a dutch treat dinner.

On Saturday morning, Companions and Dames held meetings of their respective organizations. The men discussed matters such as their bylaws and constitution, and the financing of the Mid-Winter Meeting by the District of Columbia Commandery and the National Commandery-in-Chief. The evening featured a social cocktail hour in the bar of the hotel. Members and their guests retired to the banquet room for a Presentation of the Colors by the Joint Armed Forces Color Guard. Past Commander-in-Chief Jeffrey Burden lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and Kevin Martin, Chaplain-in-Chief led the Grace. Dr. Clayton Hess, of Lincoln Memorial University (LMU) described the many accomplishments of the school and thanked MOLLUS for its contributions to its success. Kristy Bay, a member of the LMU staff, treated the guests to a beautiful rendition of "America, the Beautiful."

After dinner, Peter Dixon introduced the speaker, John H. Muller, who spoke on Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas. Muller, is a self-described "street historian" whose research on the life of Frederick Douglas had revealed several interesting intersections with the lives of Mary Todd and Abraham Lincoln. While Muller created an impression of being antagonistic to academic historians, he was proud to be cited by them. In fact, he had uncovered a number of interesting things about the life of Robert Todd Lincoln by his original research in primary materials. He is the author of a book on Douglas, *Frederick Douglas in Washington, D.C.: The Lion of Anacostia*.

On the following day, February 12, Companions, Dames, and guests headed across the Potomac to the Lincoln Memorial. Peter Dixon, Master of Ceremony and Chairman of the Lincoln Birthday National Commemorative Committee (LBNCC) extended a warm greeting to the distinguished guests and speakers. The colors were again presented by the Joint Forces Color Guard of the Military District of Washington and the U.S. Air Force Band Brass Quintet played the National Anthem. Lt. Colonel Ronnelle Armstrong, USAF and Senior Chaplain of the White House Military Office gave an inspiring invocation. Dignitaries representing the National Park Service and District of Columbia Government made thoughtful remarks and welcomed the visitors.

Dr. Janet Morgan Riggs, president of Gettysburg College, provided a careful, measured reading of the Gettysburg

Address, and followed it with moving comments about the relationship between her college, Lincoln, and the Gettysburg battlefield. Her words had great contemporary relevance, and she quoted another great speech of Lincoln, his Second Inaugural Address, to underscore her theme.

The Frederick Talley Drum Hunt Award, annually presented by the District of Columbia Commandery, was given to James D. Leroux, student of AP history and honor student at Severn School. Kristy Bay sang the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" using a version she'd found in a hymnal of her mother's. Her soprano voice exploited the cavernous acoustics of the Memorial to great emotional effect.

After the wreath laying, the Quintet played the "Military Order of the Loyal Legion March" by John Philips Sousa, and other selections.

Many of the spectators and participants retired to a luncheon hosted by the LBNCC. After the rainy drizzle and cold, they were ready for a hot meal. Marston Watson led the Pledge, and Kevin Martin said Grace. The speaker was author and historial Marc Leepson, who gave an interesting presentation on the American flag, with a focus on the Civil War era. He is the author of *Flag: An American Biography, A History of the Stars and Stripes*. ❁



Clockwise from top: Joe Coleman and Commander-in-Chief Eric Rojo at the Lincoln Memorial; James D. Leroux (left) receiving the Frederick Talley Drum Hunt Award from Eric Rojo; the U.S. Air Force Brass Quintet playing the National Anthem.

Photos courtesy of Tee Adams Photo.



Loyal Legion Midwinter Meeting & Abraham Lincoln's 210th Birthday Celebration

February 10-12, 2019 ★ Washington, DC

The 2019 Loyal Legion Midwinter Meeting and Lincoln's 210th Birthday Celebration brought members together for a for a weekend of business and fellowship. Here is a review of some of the highlights.



Photo captions:

1. D.C. Commander John Moore introduces the Joint Armed Forces color guard at the Lincoln Birthday Dinner

2. Marston Watson (left) sharing a great story with Col. Stuart (center) and Blanche Curfman

3. Past Commanders-in-Chief Jim Simmons (right), Judge Scott Stucky (center), and Mrs. Stucky enjoying themselves before the banquet.

4. DOLLUS members preparing for a productive business meeting (l to r): Rosemary Martin, Caren Cleaveland, Ellen Higgins, Lynne Bury, Florence Stanley, Ann Schaeffer, Blanche Curfman, and Joan Dixon.



5. Kristy Bay, LMU, sang a beautiful rendition of America, the Beautiful during the Lincoln Birthday Dinner.

6. Past DOLLUS President Lynn Bury presents LMU Vice President Cynthia L. Whitt with DOLLUS award.



7. Banquet speaker John Muller (left) with John Moore (center) and Peter Dixon

8. Gary Grove (left) and Eric Rojo listen intently to officer reports,

Photos courtesy Tee Adams Photo.

Desperate Engagement:

How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C. and Changed American History

Journalist and historian Marc Leepson's *Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C., and Changed American History* is a recounting of four short, but pivotal, weeks in the American Civil War. The story begins on June 13, 1864, when the cantankerous Confederate General Jubal Anderson Early followed his commanding general Robert E. Lee's secret orders to take an entire corps of troops from outside the defenses of Richmond and move into the Shenandoah Valley. Early quickly defeated Union General David Hunter at Lynchburg, then marched his troops north through the undefended Shenandoah Valley.

On July 5, Early's troops crossed the Potomac, setting in motion the South's third invasion of the North (after Antietam in 1862 and Gettysburg almost a exactly a year earlier in July 1863). The story ends a month later, on July 14, 1864, when Early led his troops back across the Potomac after removing them from the skirmishing around Washington.

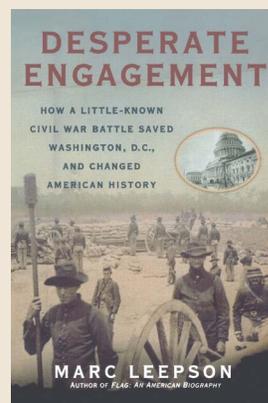
Those four weeks featured an interesting cast of characters, including Early, Union Commanding General U.S. Grant, Lee, Abraham Lincoln, Confederate General John Breckinridge (the former American vice president from Kentucky who served under Early), General George McClellan (the disgraced onetime Union commander who became the Democratic nominee for President against Lincoln in 1864), Union General Lew Wallace (who held Early up at Monocacy and after the war became a novelist best known for his wildly popular novel, *Ben Hur*), and the fighting Confederate General John Brown Gordon.

The key event, the July 9 Battle of Monocacy, also played a vital role in the outcome of the war. In what would be Lew Wallace's finest military hour, he and his men came out on the losing end. But, as the book makes clear, the fight at Monocacy became known as "the battle that saved Washington, D.C." because Wallace held Early up for just enough time for Grant to bring much-needed seasoned troops to man the defenses of Washington, which at that point had been defended by a collection of inexperienced troops and veterans recuperating in Washington from their war wounds.

Few know that two days later Early's men engaged in two days of heated skirmishing outside Fort Stevens in Washington—the only time the Confederates attacked the national capital. President Lincoln was among those who came out to Fort Stevens to witness the action on July 11 and 12. On Tuesday, July 12, the six feet, four-inch Lincoln stood on the parapet, wearing his customary frock coat and tall stovepipe hat. During the afternoon fighting, a rebel sharpshooter on the skirmish line climbed onto the roof of an abandoned house, took aim, and shot a Union surgeon, Dr. C.C.V.A. Crawford of the 102nd Pennsylvania. The bullet tore through Crawford's leg. Crawford was standing on the parapet next to Lincoln.

That marked the one and only time a sitting U.S. President came under direct fire in a war. It also was the birth of a legend, that 23-year-old aide de camp, Captain Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. of the Twentieth Massachusetts Infantry Regiment turned to Lincoln and shouted, "Get down, you fool!" The book explains exactly how that tale came to be told and who said what to the Commander-in-Chief after Dr. Crawford was shot.

As for changing American history, Early's move into Maryland and his march on Washington forced Grant to send the U.S. Army's Sixth Corps from outside Richmond to Monocacy and Washington and to divert the entire Nineteenth Corps to the nation's capital. Grant had been working on what he had hoped would be a plan to put a stranglehold around Lee in Richmond and Petersburg, a strategy that he had hoped would end the war, perhaps as early as the summer of 1864. That strategy dissolved when he had to send all the Sixth and Nineteenth Corps north. ❁



Author Marc Leepson has written several books focusing on American history and was the keynote speaker at the 2019 Loyal Legion Lincoln Birthday Luncheon. For more information about the book, go to marcleepson.com.

Desperate Engagement is available in paperback at bookstores and online.

Pennsylvania Commandery

On Friday evening, February 8, Companions of the Pennsylvania Commandery gathered at the Philadelphia Club to celebrate the 210th anniversary of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln. Dinner was preceded by a cocktail reception and presentation by Mr. Hugh Boyle, President of the GAR Museum of Philadelphia. The topic of the presentation was “Lincoln at Gettysburg” and detailed the weeks leading up to the dedication of the new national cemetery and the delivering of the Gettysburg Address. The presentation also included the background of the work to establish cemetery. ❁



Left: Members of the Pennsylvania Commandery celebrating Lincoln's Birthday with a grand dinner at the Philadelphia Club.

Top: Keynote speaker Hugh Boyle, President of the GAR Museum of Philadelphia.

D.C. Commandery Activities

John Dickinson Moore, Commander, D.C. Commandery

Last summer, Companions and Dames of the D.C. Commandery held a meeting at Cedar Knoll Restaurant overlooking the Potomac River. On land originally part of George Washington's River Farm property, Cedar Knoll is adjacent to Fort Hunt Park. Fort Hunt was named for Brig. General Henry J. Hunt, an original Companion, and the grandfather of one of our deceased D.C. Companions, Frederick Drum Hunt.

Douglas Baird Stuart spoke on “The Overland Campaign: The Forty Days that Sealed the Doom of the Confederacy.” The Overland Campaign included some fierce engagements between North and South—Wilderness, Spottsylvania Courthouse, North Anna, and Cold Harbor. During the dramatic and deadly fighting, both sides lost considerable numbers but Grant held the edge over Lee at the end. Grant

could still maneuver and Lee was left with fighting only defensively by the siege of Petersburg and Richmond.

During the meal, the Commandery presented Kevin Martin with his Past Commander pin.

The Commandery's fall meeting was also held at Cedar Knoll, this time with guest speaker Steve Phan. Phan is a National Park Ranger and expert on the Civil War fortifications in and around Washington. The subject of his presentation was “The Evolution of the Defenses of Washington.” Members of the audience were interested to hear that there were 68 enclosed forts around the city and many more artillery batteries. There was a plan, which never came to fruition, to build a byway that would link the remaining forts in a circle around the city. As a result, several forts or parts of forts were taken



Ranger Steve Phan describes the Civil War-era fortifications around Washington.

over by the National Park Service, and are now used for recreation and historical interpretation.

Jubal Early's assault on Fort Stevens, a story familiar to many in the audience, was described from the standpoint of the other fortifications involved in the fight. Forts Reno, DeRussy, and Slocum were also involved, and fired on the Confederates approaching Fort Stevens. ❁

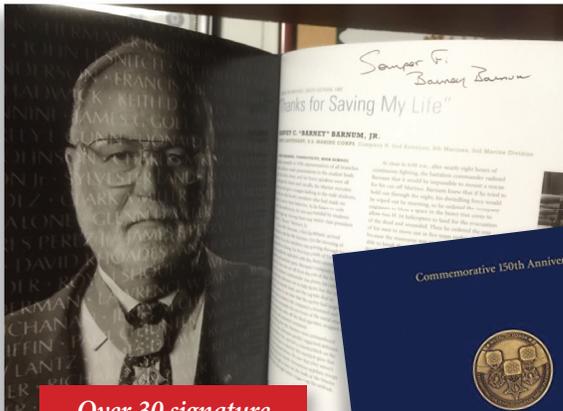
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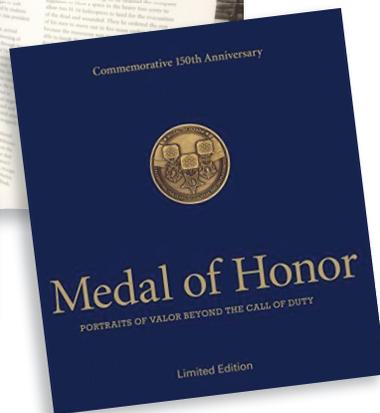
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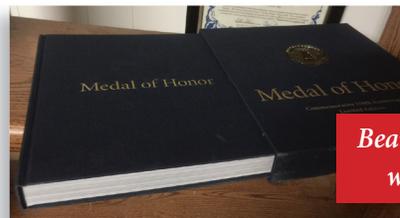


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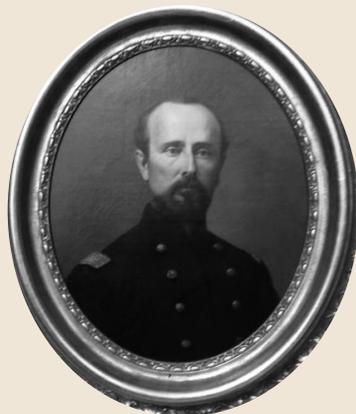
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William R. Warnock *From Richmond to Nashville*

Steven M. Wilson



*William R. Warnock
1838-1919*

It was a frightful time; frigid air turned rain to sleet covering the rolling hills with a shimmering, thick layer of ice, making digging nearly impossible when cutting trenches from the earth and erecting fortifications were second-nature for soldiers. It was December 1864, and the Civil War was well into its third year. By this time men of the Ninety-fifth Ohio had become professional soldiers. Most had enlisted in the summer of 1862 with William R. Warnock, a recent graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University who joined the regiment on a most auspicious, perhaps even infamous, date of July 21, 1862. A year before his enlistment the Union had suffered an embarrassing defeat at First Bull Run, a defeat which foreshadowed the obvious. First, the war would last longer and be more brutal than most imagined, and second, it would take men hardened by battle with the necessary skills to fight and survive conflict.

The Buckeye State answered Lincoln's call for troops over the course of the war by sending 320,000 of her men in 260 regiments to defend the Union. She was third, behind New York and Pennsylvania in states to provide troops to the North. By the end of the conflict the Ninety-fifth's casualty rate was better than some regiments, and perhaps worse than others. She lost one officer and 58 men to battle, and two officers and 215 enlisted men to disease.

Warnock, elected captain of Company G when he joined the unit, was a product of the Midwest. He was born in the small Ohio community of Urbana, located in the near center of the state, surrounded by prosperous farms and flat lands. He was a lawyer, or would become one when this business was over. His men worked the land and came from small towns, and had no clear notion about how to soldier. They,

like Warnock, would learn. Their education came at a price and within a month of the regiment's creation.

It began as many battles did, with cavalry either screening or probing, and as a result bumping into the enemy. This particular event took place near Richmond, Kentucky on August 29, 1862 when Union Colonel Leonidas Metcalf's Seventh Kentucky Cavalry drove back Confederate troopers, but was himself forced to retreat to Richmond by Rebel infantry. The next day the main bodies of both Union and Confederate forces locked horns, with some of the hottest action taking place, in a macabre twist, in the town's cemetery.

After a day of fighting, the Confederate forces not only won the field, but captured nearly 4,000 Union troops and 10,000 stand of arms. The Ninety-fifth Ohio, as green as troops could be (and there were many on both sides of the Richmond battlefield) was essentially captured in total, 600 men of the regiment swallowed up by a gray cloud in one fell swoop. It was a humiliating entrance into the War. The men of the Ninety-fifth were exchanged about two months later, and returned to Camp Chase in Columbus, Ohio (where they had

first been organized) to start the process of returning to battle.

It wasn't until late spring of 1863 that the regiment was sent back on campaign, from Memphis, Tennessee to Louisiana, to Mississippi; taking part in the siege of Vicksburg and doing well enough to prove they had gotten the hang of soldiering by capturing nine pieces of Confederate artillery, 52 officers and men, and "about 40 stand of arms." Perhaps the debacle of Richmond could be put behind them. It was not to be. A raid on Tupelo, Mississippi resulted in the Battle of Guntown (June 10, 1864) during which nearly 150 officers and men of the regiment were killed, wounded, or marked as missing. By July 1864 the Ninety-fifth had just 100 men fit for service.

What was left of the regiment was sent west to Arkansas after Confederate General Sterling Price's forces. On November 30, 1864 the Ninety-fifth, now commanded by Lt. Colonel Jefferson Brumback, arrived at Nashville, Tennessee. They were one of five infantry regiments and Cogswell's Battery of the Illinois Light Artillery assigned to Colonel William L. McMillen's First Brigade or McArthur's First Division, folded within Maj. General Andrew J. Smith's benignly named detachment, Army of the Tennessee.

By winter 1864 the Ninety-fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment and Major Warnock (promoted July 28, 1863), was a veteran regiment filled with experienced soldiers. They had missed the Battle of Franklin but had departed their river transports at Nashville in time to face the 30,000 men of the Confederate Army of Tennessee, commanded by Lt. General John Bell Hood. Hood's force had been roughly

handled by Maj. General John Schofield's command at Franklin (7,000 Rebel casualties, including six generals killed in action), and now they faced Union Maj. General George H. Thomas and an army cobbled together to defend Nashville.

"Pap" Thomas was known to be calm and deliberate when the need arose. He earned the sobriquet the Rock of Chickamauga through pure courage and poise, but was thought by some, including U.S. Grant, to be reluctant.

Hood was just the opposite, but rather than attacking Thomas's seven-mile-long defensive line he chose to entrench his army, build a series of redoubts, and wait for the expected attack. And wait he did, as did Thomas, as well did a very irritated U.S. Grant at City Point, Virginia. In Grant's mind Thomas should have immediately attacked Hood. Thomas knew he could do nothing until the weather broke and he delayed, despite Grant's urging.

The Ninety-fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment and the rest of Smith's 13,000 man detachment waited as well. They had been in place for nearly two weeks, assaulted by an icy rain and frigid temperatures, so it was probably a relief when they were ordered to prepare to attack. A thick fog formed during the morning of December 15, 1865 as the Union forces moved into position. The Ninety-fifth and Smith's entire command would attack the left of Hood's four-mile-long line, after a

demonstration to Hood's right in hopes of pulling forces away from the left.

The Union forces moving against Hood fought their way through a thick curtain of fog, slipping and stumbling over the muddy ground. It wasn't until 9:00 a.m. that the feint was made on Hood's right and it failed to draw any of Hood's troops away from the Rebel line. A.J. Smith's command with IV Corps led by Brig. General Thomas J. Wood and a division of cavalry led by Brigadier General Edward Hatch hit the exposed left flank of Hood's line.

After some confusion, McArthur's division (including the Ninety-fifth Ohio) of Smith's detachment moved to attack. The Rebels fell back as the sun came out and burned away the fog. Smith's corps, supported by cavalry, attacked Confederate Redoubt #5, farthest to the left of the Rebel line. All five redoubts had no more than 150 men and four cannons each to defend themselves. Resistance collapsed at Redoubt #5, followed by Redoubt #4 as a blue wave washed over the incomplete fortifications.

Smith, looking not so much like a Yankee general as Zeus on horseback, rode past soldiers of the Twelfth Iowa who, frantic to engage the enemy, cried "Bring us a fort! Bring us a fort!" Smith ordered them to Redoubt #3 which fell under the onslaught, and soon after it Redoubt #2. The day ended with Hood's army badly mauled and in danger of being destroyed.

Late in the day on December 16, Brig. General John McArthur, commander of the First Division, launched an attack against Shy's Hill after ordering the men "to fix bayonets, not fire a shot and neither halt or to cheer until they have gained the enemy's works." McMillen's First Brigade with the 114th Illinois, Ninety-third Indiana, Tenth Minnesota, Seventy-second Ohio, and the Ninety-fifth Ohio led the attack. After breaking through the Confederate line just to the east of Shy's Hill, Smith's men poured into the breach and captured hundreds of Rebel prisoners. Shy's Hill fell, Hood's defenses crumbled, and his army disappeared as surely as the sun burned away the heavy fog on the morning of the 15th.

Warnock was mustered out of the regiment on August 14, 1865 after having been brevetted lieutenant colonel. He was admitted to the bar in 1866 and was active in civic affairs in and around Urbana, Ohio for the rest of his life. Like many Union veterans Warnock joined the Military Order of the Loyal Legion and served as the commander of the Ohio Commandery.

Warnock's portrait at the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum shows him as a young man, in uniform as a lieutenant colonel in the Union Army. A later photograph captures Warnock's maturity and confidence, his beard liberally speckled with gray. Warnock died in July 1918 as the First World War drew to a close. How much he knew about that conflagration is unknown. It was not his war. His was a conflict of young men, dense fog, and the shimmering, ice-covered terrain around Nashville.



After the Civil War, William Warnock held several political positions including member of the Ohio State senate (1876-1877) and U.S. Congressman (R-OH) (1901-1905). As a member of the U.S. Congress, he served as chairman of the Committee on Expenditures in the Department of War. In addition to his political offices, Warnock also belonged to a number of benevolent and patriotic societies including the Loyal Legion where he served as Commander of the Ohio Commandery (1898-1899).

Steven Wilson, Assistant Director and Curator of the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum is also a novelist. Two of the six books published, take place during the Civil War—President Lincoln's Spy, and President Lincoln's Secret. ❁

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