



Commander-in-Chief's Message

On January 17, I attended a special event at the Union League of Philadelphia in which the PA Commandery unveiled a restored 134-year-old banner gifted by Original Companion Prince Philippe of Orléans, Count of Paris. The conservation effort was the brainchild of Past Commander-in-Chief Joseph Coleman. Please see page four herein for details.

In February I attended two banquets commemorating the 215th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's birth. On February 2 the PA Commandery held its Lincoln banquet at Radnor Hunt in Malvern. On February 11 the DC Commandery held its annual Lincoln dinner in Alexandria. The next day I presented a wreath on behalf of the Order at the 102nd Lincoln Memorial Birthday Commemoration. We should never take for granted the importance of participating in these events because one of our most important duties as Companions and Dames is honoring the memories of those men and women who courageously defended the unity and indivisibility of our nation during the Civil War. It has been said that true memory lay not in a pile of dead stones but in the living hearts of the people. More than ever our nation needs to be reminded of the heroic and patriotic virtues embodied by our predecessors. Every commandery, as part of its public outreach, should prioritize memorial events in line with this mission. To that end I encourage you to make plans to join me in Springfield, Illinois, on Saturday, April 13 for the 68th Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony, commemorating the anniversary of President Lincoln's death. See page eleven for more information.



If I don't see you in Springfield, I hope you will attend the 2024 National Congress on October 11 and 12 at Pamplin Historical Park, located 30 miles south of Richmond. I am grateful to the Virginia Commandery for hosting this year's annual event. Details and registration instructions will be forthcoming.

Lastly, I ask all members to consider supporting the Loyal Legion Memorial Fund by participating in the 1865 Challenge with a gift of \$18.65 or more. Each contribution has an impact greater than its dollar value. A high participation rate demonstrates the commitment of membership to our unique and historic mission. Financial donation is a special way to participate in the work of the Loyal Legion even if unable to regularly attend events in person. All who support the Fund in any amount will be recognized in the Journal at the end of year.

Loyally - Mike *



Loyal Legion Memorial Fund Appeal



The Loyal Legion Memorial Fund benefits not only from tax-deductible gifts sent every year by Companions and Dames, but from the generosity of those who remember the Fund in their estate planning. The Fund recently received a significant planned gift from a daughter of William C. Duval, who served as Commander-In-Chief of the Order from 1953 to 1957. C-in-C Duval's legacy continues through her, and we are grateful for it.

Speak to your estate planning advisor about adding to your own legacy of care, by including the Loyal Legion Memorial Fund as a charitable beneficiary in your will or trust. *

The Trustees of the Loyal Legion Memorial Fund

Welcome New Members

HEREDITARY COMPANIONS

Benjamin Block Burton Jones III, 22909 IN

LTC/BVT COL Franklin Black, 111th Regt. Illinois Vol. Inf.

Stephen Eugene Anderson, 22910 VA

LT& RQM Elza Jervis Downey F&S 46th Reg. Indiana Vol. Inf.

Michael Scott Kisler, 22911 VA

CAPT Philander Phinney Co.E 50th Regt. Wisconsin Vol. Inf.

James Allen Briste Mazars de Mazarin, 22912 DC

BG Lyman Allen, Adjutant General State Of Kansas

Arthur William Per Ermine, 22913 PA

CAPT Thomas V. Wilson Co. L, 10th Regt. Illinois Vol. Cavalry

Dana Burton Frederic, 22914 VA

2nd LT Martin W. Frederic Co. G 9th Reg. Maine Vol. Inf.

Timothy Haskell Baker III, 22915 MO

1LT Absalom C. Philips Co. E 2nd Regt. Arkansas Vol. Inf.

Paul Burgess Frederic, 22916 VA

2nd LT Martin W. Frederic Co. G 9th Reg. Maine Vol. Inf.

David Joe Horsli, 22917 IN

2nd LT Luke Cassidy Co. D 35th Indiana Vol. Inf.

Scott Craig Hughbanks, 22918 KS

CAPT David C. Morgan Co. B 10th Regiment
West Virginia Vol. Inf.

Jeffery Child Wooldridge, 22919 VA

2LT Charles Edward Page Co. F 81st USCT

ASSOCIATES COMPANIONS

Ronald Gene Helms, A372 OH

Sheldon Mark Hanigton, A73 CT

Scott William Kreis, A374 WI



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The marker also includes a mounting rod.**

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**To Order Contact: David Forbes at:
forbze16@gmail.com**



LOYAL LEGION
HISTORICAL JOURNAL

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Commander-in-Chief

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Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

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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 on April 15, 1865. Pertinent materials will be welcomed by members and the public. Articles and news should be submitted to Paul Davis at pdmarcomm@aol.com. Content must be formatted in Microsoft Word and submitted electronically. High resolution photographs and art work (300 DPI JPEG or TIFF files) at the finished size to be published should be submitted and accompanied by a description and/or caption.

Submission Deadlines:

Submission deadlines are NO LATER THAN February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1.

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Comte de Paris

A treasured artifact from the original MOLLUS headquarters and subsequent Civil War Library and Museum at 1805 Pine Street in Philadelphia returned in all of its grandeur to Philadelphia on January 17. Through the efforts of the Pennsylvania Commandery, the Comte de Paris banner, which was displayed at 1805 Pine Street from 1890 until the museum's closure in 2008, was retrieved from storage in Gettysburg and then conserved, framed and donated to the Union League in Philadelphia to be permanently displayed on the second floor at the top of the grand staircase. Matt Dupee, former PA Commander and current Judge Advocate-in-Chief most graciously provide the funds for the project.

The unveiling followed a presentation by Prof. Allen C. Guelzo entitled **A War for the World: The Civil War and its Place in World History** which led perfectly into the role of the Comte de Paris and his participation as a Captain on Gen. McClellan's staff in the Army of the Potomac. The Comte became a member of the Pennsylvania Commandery in 1880 and presented the banner to the Commandery in a 1890 return visit to Philadelphia. *



L to R: Tench Forbes - PA Commander, Michael Bates, Commander-in-Chief, Joe Coleman - Past Commander-in-Chief, Matt Dupee - Judge Advocate-in-Chief, Gary Grove - Recorder-in-Chief



Highlight Appearances



MOLLUS and DOLLUS Participants Placed Wreaths at the LBNCC event sponsored by the Washington DC Commandery. Sheri O'Connell, historian for the DAMES presented a Community Service Award to MOLLUS which was received by C-I-C Michael Bates. Jim Simmons, Past MOLLUS C-I-C presented a History Scholarship Award to William Lee Johnson, a student at Lincoln Memorial University.



Michael Bates, MOLLUS Commander In Chief Places A Wreath.



Ed Gantt, Represented the 23rd USCT.



Event attendees visited the National Portrait Gallery: L to R: Ellen Higgins, Rosemary and Kevin Martin, John Moore, Jim Simmons, Linn Malaznik, Kay Shelton, and Laurie Moore.



Visiting Ford's Theater. L to R: Linn Malaznik, Rosemary and Kevin Martin, Laurie Moore, Ellen Higgins, John Moore, Sheri O'Connell, and Jim Simmons.



Rosemary Martin, Ellen Higgins, Laurie Moore, Sheri O'Connell, Linn Malaznik, Jim Simmons, John Moore, Kevin Martin.

Dames of the Loyal Legion



Dames,

A big thank you to the Dames who attended and represented our organization at the Lincoln Memorial Ceremony. It is wonderful to be able to share in their dedication to our Organization. When we all work together we can accomplish great things. Be true to fostering the spirit of patriotism. Support all that serve our country and importantly be proud of the great Organization of which you are a member.

I am looking forward to representing the Dames at the Lincoln Death Day Ceremony in Springfield, Illinois in April. I encourage you to attend and hope to see some of you there. Please continue to share your activities so others may see the importance of our organization. *

Loyally,

Jan Davis, National President
Dames of the Loyal Legion of the United States

“Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm” Abraham Lincoln



DAMES of The Loyal Legion Of The United States attending the Lincoln Birthday Celebration in Washington DC. L to R Rosemary Martin, Shari O’Connell. Laurie Moore, Jill. Schneider, Ellen Higgins (Not Shown)



Sheri O’Connell, Historian For The DAMES of the Loyal Legion presented a Community Service Award to Loyal Legion Commander In Chief Bates



SAVE THE DATE - 2024 Annual Meetings

October 11 & 12, 2024
Virginia Awaits Companions and Dames!



The Virginia Commandery is pleased to be hosting the 2024 Annual Meetings of the Military Order Of The Loyal Legion and the Dames of The Loyal Legion on October 11 and 12, 2024 . The location for our meetings and meals, and for special tours, **Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of The Civil War Soldier** located on I-85 just south of Petersburg in Dinwiddie County, Virginia. This outstanding site contains one of the finest Civil War interpretive museums anywhere, and also has on its grounds well-preserved earthworks and other reminders of the breakthrough of Union forces there on the morning of April 2, 1865, that led directly to the fall of Petersburg and Richmond.

The Headquarters hotel will be the Holiday Inn Express/Dinwiddie, located less than a mile from the Park's entrance. Of course, central Virginia is a prime destination for Civil War Battlefields, museums and other attractions including the nearby Petersburg National Battlefield, the Siege Museum of Petersburg, and Richmond National Battlefield Park. Feel free to come early, stay late, and enjoy all the area has to offer.

More details, including hotel reservation information, will be available soon on our MOLLUS Loyal Legion website, via e-mails from the Order, and in future issues of the Historical Journal.



The MOLLUS Gathering



Birthday Observance of General George G. Meade at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia. L to R: PA MOLLUS Companions Past Commander-in-Chief Joe Coleman, Andre McCoy, Recorder-in-Chief Gary Grove, Ellis Adams, Andy Waskie, PA Chancellor Michael Whelan and PA Commander Tench Forbes.



PA MOLLUS Gathering At General Meade's Gettysburg HQ, 1893.

Thomas Jefferson Nill, Insignia No. 2127

By Adam Gaines Insignia 22470

Thomas Jefferson Nill was born on September 26, 1836 at Waynesboro, Pennsylvania to John and Mary Patterson Nill. He was educated in the schools of Carlisle and Lancaster. In his adulthood, he began studying law with his uncle who was a judge and was admitted to the Franklin County Bar on October 31, 1858. After being admitted to the bar, he began a law firm called Kennedy & Nill. In 1862, he dissolved his law firm and enlisted in Company E, 126th Pennsylvania Infantry. On August 10, 1862, he was elected 2nd Lieutenant of Co. E. Five days later, he was elected 1st Lieutenant and Quartermaster of the Regiment. On August 15, 1862, the regiment was ordered to the front. Unfortunately, it arrived at Antietam too late to take part in the fighting there. However, while encamped on the battlefield, the 126th, along with Lieutenant Nill were reviewed by President Lincoln and received their colors.



Three months later, Lieutenant Nill and the 126th took part in the Battle of Fredericksburg. The regiment was one of the regiments that charged Marye's Heights and lost 27 killed, 50 wounded, and 3 missing.

The next battle Nill took part in was the Battle of Chancellorsville. On May 3, 1863, while on the right wing of the Union Army, the 126th came under Confederate attack. The regiment fought for two hours. With ammunition running low, the 126th Regiment retreated to the protection of artillery. They lost 9 killed, 49 wounded and 11 captured.

After the Battle of Chancellorsville, Nill and the Regiment were ordered back to Harrisburg, where they were mustered out on May 20, 1863. After his discharge from the Army, Nill went to Hagerstown, Maryland where he became involved in the retail and grocery business. On December 24, 1867, Nill married Miss Elizabeth Johnston McLanahan. This marriage was blessed with two daughters, Mary and Sidney. In 1868, he put in a claim to the State of Pennsylvania for property he lost during the burning of Chambersburg in 1864. One of the things he lost in the burning was his law library.

In 1872, Nill became an agent for the Cumberland Valley Railroad Company in Hagerstown. Fortunately, not long afterwards he was able to get transferred to Greencastle, PA, where he was living. He also became Vice President and a Director of the First National Bank of Greencastle.

In December of 1880, apparently wanting to be reunited with his fellow officer veterans, former 1st Lieutenant Nill applied for membership in the MOLLUS Pennsylvania Commandery. He was sponsored for membership by Original Companions, Lt. Col. Benjamin F. Winger, 1st Lt. Florence W. Grugan, and 1st Lt. Edward D. Loud. Nill was elected a Companion of the First Class in the Pennsylvania Commandery on January 5, 1881. He was assigned Insignia No. 2127.

In the 1890's, Nill began to become very active in the activities of the 126th Pennsylvania Regimental Association. In 1891, he was on the Transportation Committee of the Reunion which took place at Mont Alto Park. He was also on the Executive Committee of the Regimental Association. In 1898, he was put on the Committee on Orators and Program. In 1899, Nill took part in the celebrations for the 35th Anniversary of the burning of Chambersburg. He was one of the people still alive who had a business in Chambersburg at the time of the burning.

In 1903, Thomas Nill retired, but decided to remain a Director of the First National Bank of Greencastle. On April 13, 1904, he applied for a veterans' pension, and was awarded one. Unfortunately, on April 29, 1906, Companion Nill died of kidney disease and was buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery in Greencastle.

In addition to MOLLUS, Companion Nill was also a Comrade of the GAR. *



Colonel George G. Briggs 4004 Michigan Commandery

By Paul Davis 22554 Michigan Commandery

George G. Briggs was born On January 24, 1838 in Wayne County, Michigan. His Father, Nathan Briggs, was a native of Massachusetts and his mother was Hannah Carpenter, a native of Pennsylvania and of Quaker Stock. Nathan and Hannah came to Michigan in about 1835. They settled in Wayne County and then moved to Sturgis in Saint Joseph County where Nathan engaged in the Mercantile Trade until his death a few years later. Nathan and Hannah had four sons, with George being the oldest. After his father's death the family moved to Battle Creek, Michigan where George attended public school until he was 14 years old. George then entered in a mercantile House in Battle Creek, Michigan, where he remained in the capacity of a clerk for three years.

George also spent six months at Olivet College, then left to accept a position of Book Keeper in the Principal Mercantile House of Galesburg, Illinois. After serving as a Book Keeper, George resigned and returned to Battle Creek and purchased an interest in the firm Averell and Manchester. George continued this connection under the name of Averell & Manchester, and continued this connection under the name of Averell Briggs & Company In 1862, George disposed of his business interest and immediately commenced active participation to raise troops for service in the Union Army. For the next four years he dedicated his time and energy in raising troops for the Union cause.



Through his efforts, a Cavalry Company consisting largely of his friends and acquaintances from the Battle Creek area was formed and George Briggs was appointed a 1st Lieutenant and became part of the 7th Michigan Cavalry. Before he left for the front, George Briggs made a farewell visit to his friends in Galesburg, Illinois. Here he was presented a sword as an expression in which he was held in esteem. On September 13, 1862, George as a 1st Lieutenant in the 7th Michigan Cavalry entered into service. On July 1, 1863, George was promoted to Adjutant. He was again promoted to Captain on March 22, 1864. Further he was next promoted to Major on May 19, 1864 and Lieutenant Colonel on October 2, 1864. On May 26, 1865 he was appointed to Colonel. The 7th Michigan Cavalry was a well-known Regiment in which the names of Custer, Litchfield, Mann and Sheridan, are well-known. Colonel George G. Briggs has the honor of having been the last Colonel to command the 7th.

At the reunion of the 7th Michigan Cavalry Association in 1901, Colonel Briggs stated in his departing words: "Exhausted nature sent us to our blankets and we slept that night with thankful hearts that one more day of our three years, or during the war, was over. In thus taking leave of the Command, I bid it an affectionate good-night, and to you its survivors, I extend the greeting of a cordial good morning." *

68th ANNUAL LINCOLN TOMB CEREMONY

April 13, 2024 - Jointly Sponsored by MOLLUS and SUVCW



The 68th Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony, sponsored by MOLLUS and the SUVCW commemorating the 158th Anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's death will take place at the Lincoln Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois on Saturday April 13, 2024 at 10:00 am.

The Headquarters Hotel is the President Abraham Lincoln 701 Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701.

Room Rates and Reservations:

Rates are \$117.00 for a single through a Quad. Call 1-866-788-1860 for reservations.

To get the group rate mention "Sons of Union Veterans"

Reserve your room by March 22, 2024. After that date the remaining blocked rooms will be released.

10% dining discount at Lindsay's Restaurant is included.

Wreaths may be ordered from local Springfield florists. Instruct the florist to have the wreath delivered c/o the Lincoln Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield by 9:00 am on Saturday April 13th.

Luncheon will be held at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel at 12:30 pm on April 17, 2021. The program TBD.

Luncheon Cost is \$45.00 per person.

For any additional information, visit the SUVCW website at suvchw.org or contact Robert Petrovic at: rpetro7776@aol.com or 636-274-4567

OBSERVANCE WREATH PRESENTATION:

Please print clearly
Full Name Of Organization: _____

Name and Title of Wreath Bearer: _____

Email Address: _____

If No Email: City, State and ZIP Code. Wreaths may be ordered from local florists.

Instruct florist to have wreath delivered c/o the Lincoln Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield by 9AM on Saturday, April 13th

To ensure you are recognized in the program, this notice **MUST** be received by Bob Petrovic no later than April 1st at the address shown below.

OBSERVANCE LUNCHEON RESERVATION:

Please accept _____ Luncheon Reservation(s). Provide name, Email address, home address and phone number of person responsible for picking up tickets at the door. Please Print. There will be no extra tickets sold at the door.

Reservations must be made by April 5th and Cancellations by the same date in order to receive a refund.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State, and ZIP Code: _____

Beef Pot Roast _____ Roasted Turkey _____ Vegetarian _____

Include remittance of \$45.00 per person for each lunch reservation, payable to National Organization SUVCW.

Send To:

Robert M. Petrovic, 6519 Cherokee Lane, Cedar Hill, MO 63016

Phone: 636-274-4567



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\$11 to \$50 = \$8			
\$51 to \$100 = \$10			
\$101 or more = \$14			

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