



# *Historical Journal*

**Vol 83, No. 2**

**[www.loyallegion.org](http://www.loyallegion.org)**

**Summer 2026**



## **Lincoln Death Day Observance**

Commander-in-Chief Paul Davis led the Loyal Legion contingent at the Lincoln Death Day observance, held on the steps of the Lincoln Tomb in Springfield, Illinois on April 18. Attendance at the event has been growing in recent years, and C-in-C Davis spoke to a sizable gathering of citizens and reenactors.

This commemorative event, held since 1956 and partially underwritten by the Loyal Legion Memorial Fund, is co-sponsored with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. It also includes participants from, among other groups, the Dames of the Loyal Legion, the Sons of Veterans Reserve, and the various Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic.

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## **Commander-in-Chief's Message**

Greeting to all Companions!

This time of year, we are enjoying the beautiful changes of nature – from nascent spring sprouts to the full beauty and bounty that summer will bring to us. Metaphorically, we can find that beauty and bounty culminating on July 4 – the semiquincentennial of our Nation's birth.

As we remember those who served their nation in the Civil War, we also need to remember that our Original Companions were looking back four score and nine years to their role models: The Founders. Many of our Original Companions were direct descendants of the men and women who stood up to the most powerful army and navy on the planet, and crafted the greatest experiment in statecraft the world has ever witnessed. When they donned the Union blue, they were standing on the shoulders of those giants.

We can only imagine their reaction seeing an amazing country stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Gulf Coast to the Arctic. We cannot place ourselves in their

heavenly minds, but we can always hold close the core tenets that one brave group established, and another brave group successfully defended: the promise of liberty and equality for all.

Similarly, our Order, which began with a single Commandery in Pennsylvania, now consists of twenty state Commanderies, stretching from coast to coast. Yet the challenge to survive and thrive continues. At the beginning of 2024, the Commandery-in-Chief met to discuss and determine our path forward. One of our marching orders was RETAIN and RECRUIT. This effort involves both the Commandery-in-Chief as well as all state Commanderies of the Order, doing what is necessary to sustain as well as grow.



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## LOYAL LEGION HISTORICAL JOURNAL

VOL. 83, NO. 2

### *Commander-in-Chief*

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The Loyal Legion Historical Journal is a quarterly publication of the Loyal Legion Memorial Fund, in support of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS). The Journal welcomes submissions of relevant materials from members of the Order and from the public, and should be directed to the Editor, Jeffry Burden, at [richburd6165@yahoo.com](mailto:richburd6165@yahoo.com).

Written content must be formatted in Microsoft Word and submitted electronically. Photos and artwork must be of adequate resolution (at least 300 dpi jpeg or TIFF files), and must be accompanied by a description and/or suggested caption. The Editor reserves the right to edit submitted material for length, content and style.

### SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

February 15 (Spring issue), May 15 (Summer issue),

August 15 (Fall issue) and November 15 (Winter issue).

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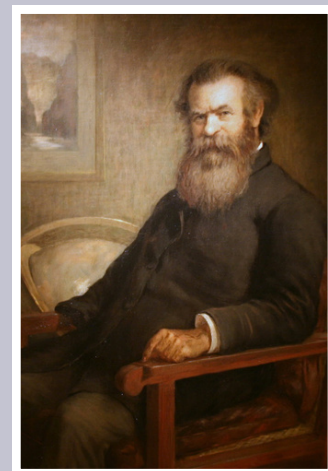
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# Welcome New Members

## HEREDITARY COMPANIONS

**John Gerard Hall 22999 (VA)**

COL Henry Hills Hall, 4th NY H A

**Edward Richards W. Kellogg 23000 (PA)**

2LT William M. Casey, 106th PA INF

**John Andrew Ward 23001 (VA)**

CAPT Philip Johnson, Jr., 2nd DE INF

**Townsend Meyers Ward 23002 (VA)**

CAPT Philip Johnson, Jr., 2nd DE INF

***The Editor notes these corrections to last issue's New Companion section:***

Companion Sameer Ferrell's qualifying officer is Chaplain Stephen Blair, 63rd Illinois Infantry.

Companion Thomas Edward Jacks' Companion Number is 22988.

LOYAL LEGION MEMORIAL FUND



## Trustees' Corner

LOYAL LEGION MEMORIAL FUND



The Loyal Legion Memorial Fund recently received the last of three charitable distributions from the estate of Virginia Adams Smith. Virginia, who died in 2017, was the wife of Companion Malcolm Smith of New York. She chose to honor her husband's longtime connection to the Loyal Legion, and to fulfill her own charitable goals, by remembering the Order in her estate plan.

Malcolm, who died in 2003, served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was an active and valued member of the New York Commandery, serving as Recorder for many years, and also bringing to Commandery publications his design and graphic skills, derived from a long career in printing and

advertising. He and Virginia were welcome attendees at many Loyal Legion functions, fondly remembered for their bright smiles and gracious conversation. Virginia's planned gift will help the Memorial Fund expand its mission of supporting worthy historical organizations, engaging in historic commemoration, and publishing this Journal.

As Virginia Smith reminds us, charitable gifts to the Loyal Legion Memorial Fund through wills or trusts are excellent ways to support the Order while realizing valuable tax advantages. If you have an interest in such planning, please contact Trustee Jeffry Burden at [richburd6165@yahoo.com](mailto:richburd6165@yahoo.com) for more information.



## Loyal Legion “Staff Ride” Uncovers Fredericksburg Fighting

A military-style “staff ride” in April gave Companions a close study of the campaign that ended in the clash of armies in and near Fredericksburg in December 1862.

Virginia Commander John S. Moore and DC Commander John D. Moore organized the day-long tour, led by National Park Service Ranger Ryan Quint. Starting at the high ground at Chatham Manor, across the Rappahannock River from Fredericksburg and the HQ for Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside, this deep-dive included stops at the riverbank where Union troops made a perilous landing; several sites

of intense fighting in the city itself; Prospect Hill, south of the city, where Confederate artillery stymied Maj. Gen. George Meade’s vigorous attack; and Marye’s Heights, where Union forces advanced uphill across open ground and met disaster. Ranger Quint gave special attention to the logistical and command issues that greatly shaped the battle’s outcome.

At tour’s end, attendees placed a wreath at the grave of Capt. John Rummstein Kookan, 110th Pennsylvania Infantry, mortally wounded in the battle and buried in Fredericksburg National Cemetery on Marye’s Heights.



Chatham Manor.



Prospect Hill.



Scene of street fighting near the Rappahannock River.

## Loyal Legion “Staff Ride” Uncovers Fredericksburg Fighting (continued)



Grave of Capt. Kooken. (L to R): Dames Natl. Pres. Laurie Moore, John D. Moore (DC), Mike Moore, Jeffery Burden (VA), John S. Moore (VA), Gary Grove (PA), Eric Atkisson (DC), Patrick Tennis, John Carberry (VA).

## News from the Dames of the Loyal Legion

National President Laurie Moore attended the burial service for Florence Stanley, longtime member and Past National President of the DOLLUS, at Soldiers Home Cemetery on May 19. She also attended the annual Decoration Day ceremony at the Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery on May 30.

Junior Vice-President Jill Schneider, Chaplain Sylvia Hunnewell, and Past National President Jan Davis represented the Dames at the Lincoln Death Day Ceremony in Springfield in April.

The Dames always welcomes new members, especially the wives of current Loyal Legion Companions! Please contact our Recorder/Registrar Michele Walenta at [lenta2@aol.com](mailto:lenta2@aol.com).

*Did you know...* that on May 8, 1919, the D.C Society of the Dames hosted a benefit at the Knickerbocker Theater in Washington, DC, in support of veterans of the Great War. The entertainment included a “moving picture film” and Greek dances; proceeds were used to purchase an electric player piano for “shell-shocked” soldiers, sailors and marines at St. Elizabeth’s. The Dames’ recorder sent a written invitation to General Miles, then Commander-in-Chief of the Loyal Legion, to honor the Dames with their presence at the benefit.

## Commandery News

### INDIANA

The Commandery held its Spring meeting in Terre Haute on May 30. Making that gathering especially poignant was a marker dedication at the previously-unmarked grave of Original Companion 1st Lt./RQM John G. Shryer (Insignia #13237, Indiana Commandery), 97th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. The ceremony at historic Woodlawn Cemetery in downtown Terre Haute was attended by Commandery members, and Sons of Veteran Reserves brothers representing units from Indiana and Michigan. The Vigo County historian attended and will be writing an article about Companion Shryer and the journey to mark his final resting place.



Companion Bill Brennan plays his great-grandfather's fife prior to the stone dedication for OC John G. Shryer. (Photo: Andrew Chandler).

After a luncheon and business meeting, Companions toured the Terre Haute Military Museum, learning about the rich military heritage of the Wabash Valley. The next meeting of the Indiana Commandery will take place in Anderson, Indiana on September 12, with plans to dedicate a marker for Original Companion Dr. George Franklin Chittenden, Regimental Surgeon, 16<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteer Infantry. All Companions are invited to attend.

For more information, please contact Commander Jon Swarts at [jswarts82102@gmail.com](mailto:jswarts82102@gmail.com).



(L-R) Companion Walter Brennan, SUVCW Brother Dennis Hutchinson, Companion Bill Brennan, Companion David Hoesli (Indiana SVC), Companion Garry Walls, and Companion Jeff Lilly (JVCinC). (Photo: Andrew Chandler).

### VIRGINIA



Virginia Companions John Hall, Phil Russell and Jeffery Burden represented the Loyal Legion at the annual Memorial Day observance at Cold Harbor National Cemetery, organized by Brady Camp #63, SUVCW. Those in attendance placed donated flowers on all the marked graves. The Cemetery contains the remains of 2,099 United States soldiers, of which 1,313 are unknown.



## Commandery News (continued)

### TENNESSEE

The Tennessee Commandery, re-chartered in 2024, is now thirty-nine Companions strong, and is looking forward to hosting another stellar event — a “staff ride” of Fort Donelson National Military Park, to be led by Park Ranger David Hatfield. The February 1862 capture of Fort Donelson, in northwest Tennessee on the Cumberland River, was an important Union success in the early days of the War. Along with the capture of nearby Fort Henry a few days earlier, the victory propelled then-Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant to national prominence.

Companions and guests should arrive on June 27<sup>th</sup> at the Visitor Center parking lot (120 Lock D Road, Dover, TN 37058) between 8:30 and 8:45 a.m., as the tour will step off promptly at 9:00. Immediately following the staff ride, Companion Dr. Bailey Allen will open his family estate, Historic Allendale, for a catered luncheon and brief Commandery meeting from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. (2409 Allen-

Griffey Rd, Clarksville, TN 37042). Allendale (listed in the National Register of Historic Places) was purchased in 1796 by Dr. Allen’s 4th great-grandfather, Capt. Abraham Allen, a Revolutionary War officer originally of North Carolina.

The luncheon is \$50 per person and includes soft drinks, beer, and wine. Please make checks payable to MOLLUS (or by PayPal to [oskeewowwow@hotmail.com](mailto:oskeewowwow@hotmail.com)), and kindly RSVP by June 13 for each event to McClelland “Mac” Crawford ([mac@mcclelland.com](mailto:mac@mcclelland.com)) or Jeff Lilly ([jeffdilly@gmail.com](mailto:jeffdilly@gmail.com)).

ALSO — the Tennessee Commandery is pleased to offer a handsome embossed liquor decanter with two matching glasses, available for purchase at \$100, including shipping within the United States. All proceeds will go toward the Tennessee general fund in support of our activities and preservation efforts. To order, please contact Companion Stephen Anderson at 865-806-1751 or [stephen@andersonbagpipes.com](mailto:stephen@andersonbagpipes.com).



## Indiana “Last Veteran,” Loyal Legion Member Honored



Oscar Newton Wilmington enlisted as a Private in Company "F" of the 57th Indiana Infantry in December 1861, and re-enlisted in January 1864. He was commissioned 1st Lieutenant of the Company in March 1865. After the War, he worked for the U.S. Post Office, and received an invalid pension in 1886.

In 1941 he became the last Original Companion to join the Loyal Legion (No. 19405), just a few years before his death in 1944 (not surprisingly, as the last surviving OC). He was also the last Union veteran to die in Marion County, Indiana, and in April, the brothers of Ben Harrison Camp #356, SUVCW recognized that distinction during a ceremony at his grave in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.



# ROTC Medals of Merit

## Awards made by Loyal Legion Commanderies to Army ROTC cadets in 2026

### IOWA COMMANDERY

|                |                       |                   |
|----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Rowan M. Odell | Iowa State University | Cyclone Battalion |
|----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|

### PENNSYLVANIA COMMANDERY

|                    |                         |                  |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Logan Lemaire-Hahn | Shippensburg University | Raider Battalion |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------|

### VIRGINIA COMMANDERY

|                 |                                     |                                           |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Isaac Durby     | University of Tennessee-Chattanooga | Moc Battalion                             |
| Johanna Navarro | Virginia Commonwealth University    | Spider Battalion                          |
| Grant Sullivan  | University of Richmond              | Spider Battalion                          |
| Madison Jones   | Mary Baldwin University             | Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership |

### WISCONSIN COMMANDERY

|              |                                 |                      |
|--------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Noah Kutcher | University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh | Fox Valley Battalion |
|--------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|

At the Shippensburg University award event, Recorder-in-Chief Gary Grove (a Shippensburg graduate) received special recognition for his years of support to the ROTC battalion there. He and his wife Mary Jo (also an SU grad) spoke to the assembled cadets about their 58 years of married “teamwork”, since first meeting there as undergraduates.



Cadet Lemaire-Hahn and Recorder-in-Chief Grove.



Cadet Durby and VA Commander John S. Moore.

## ROTC Medal of Merit (continued)



PC-in-C Jeffrey Burden and Cadet Jones.



Cadets Sullivan and Navarro and PC-in-C Burden.



WI Commander Kim Heltemes and Cadet Kutcher.



Award presentation to Gary and Mary Jo Grove.

# One-Armed Explorer: Companion John Wesley Powell 10374

By Companion Clay Hoffman 22727 (MO)



Considered a founder of the American West, Original Companion John Wesley Powell survived a grievous Civil War wound to gain fame as a geologist, explorer, author and professor. His book, *Powell Expedition of 1869*, was the first cartographic and scientific study of the Green and Colorado Rivers, with information gained by the first passage of non-indigenous men through the Grand Canyon. The three-month expedition began in Wyoming and traveled down the Green and Colorado Rivers, often through dangerous rapids, before ending 930 miles later at the confluence of the Colorado and Virgin Rivers in present-day Arizona and Nevada.

Powell, born on March 24, 1834, in Mount Morris, New York, early on displayed a wanderlust for the Mississippi River valley. In 1855, he devoted four months to walking across Wisconsin, and a year later, he rowed the Mississippi from St. Anthony, Minnesota to the sea. He also rowed down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh to the Mississippi River, before heading north to St. Louis. In 1858, he rowed down the Illinois River, then up the Mississippi and the Des Moines River to central Iowa.

Powell was busy as a student as well. He studied natural sciences at Wheaton College, Illinois College and Oberlin College, while also

gaining knowledge of ancient Greek and Latin. After joining the Union Army as a cartographer and engineer on May 8, 1861, he was soon appointed sergeant-major of the 20th Illinois Infantry. By the time the regiment was mustered into service a month later, he had been commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant.

In December 1861, Powell recruited Battery F of the 2nd Illinois Light Infantry at Cape Girardeau, Missouri and became its Captain. While commanding the unit at the Battle of Shiloh in April 1862, he was struck by a Minie ball while giving the order to fire. He lost most of his right arm and suffered physical pain for the remainder of his life. After recovering, he led the unit throughout the Vicksburg Campaign of 1863. He commanded an artillery brigade during the Atlanta Campaign of 1864, and following service in the Battle of Nashville in December 1864, he received a brevet promotion to lieutenant colonel.

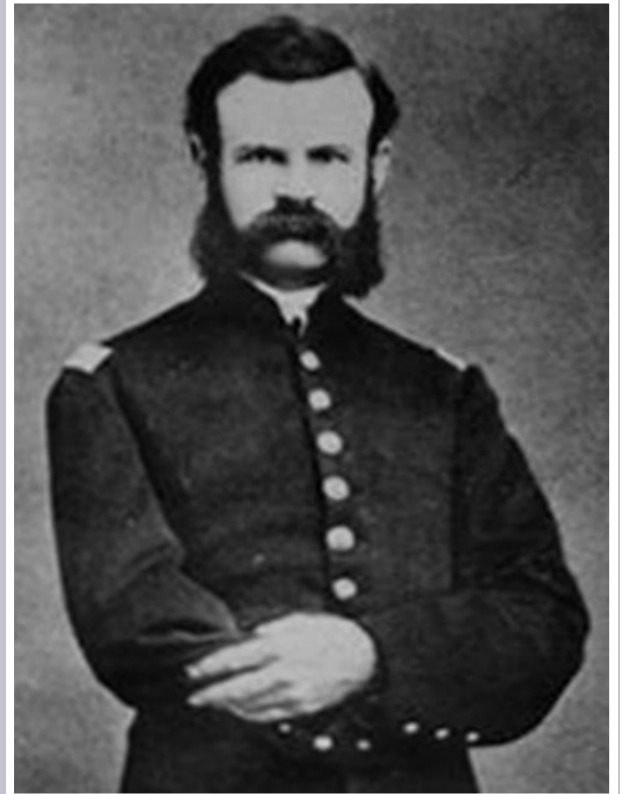
After the Civil War, Powell was a professor of geology at Illinois Wesleyan University, the Curator of the Museum of the Illinois State Natural History Society, and the first director of the Bureau of Ethnology at the Smithsonian Institution. In 1878, he founded the Cosmos Club of Washington, D.C., still active as an elite private social club with members noted for dedication to science, literature and art. But it was his 1869 Colorado River expedition, and a second such journey in 1871-72, along with various books and papers published in later years, that sealed his fame.

Powell's commitment to science and exploration continued even as his own exploring days ended. From 1881 to 1894, he served as Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, ushering in a period of increasing research into western deserts. His books

## One-Armed Explorer: Companion John Wesley Powell (continued)

included *The Exploration of the Colorado River and Its Canyons*. A noted anthropologist as well, he founded Illinois State University's Museum of Anthropology and published his learnings on Native American languages and culture, including the Ute people of the canyon lands around the Colorado River. Today, he is remembered as a giant in the fields of land preservation and conservation, as evidenced by the classic book *Beyond the Hundredth Meridian: John Wesley Powell and the Second Opening of the West* by Wallace Stegner.

John Wesley Powell died, age 68, on September 23, 1902 in Brooklin, Maine and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Several landmarks across the country today bear his name, including Lake Powell, a reservoir on the Colorado River in Utah and Arizona; and Mount Powell, a summit in the Sierra Nevada of California. In 2019, the U.S. Congress established the John Wesley Powell National Conservation Area, consisting of approximately 30,000 acres in Utah.



## Commander-in-Chief's Message (continued)

sustain as well as grow. Some of our Commanderies are doing a very good job of putting themselves out there and bringing in new Companions. If a Commandery, SMALL OR LARGE needs assistance in how to sustain and grow membership, or even has success stories to be shared, please feel free to contact me or JVC-in-C Jeff Lilly.

As our Order faces challenges, so does our country, now fraught with uncertainty, division, and fear. We owe it to those two amazing groups of men – Founders and Defenders – to understand that it is a More Perfect Union. That extra word was not a distinction without a difference. Rather, it was the Framers' explicit acknowledgement that we always will be a work in progress. Despite the deep divisions within our country at this time, we must remember our obligation to carry the

mantle of defending the promise of liberty and equality.

When we light our sparklers and barbeque grills on July 4, behind the backyard smoke of sulphur and charcoal will sit the battlefield smoke of Saratoga and Shiloh. Remember the sacrifices of our brave Founders and Defenders of this More Perfect Union.

Loyally,  
Paul T. Davis

## Lincoln Death Day Observance (continued)



Loyal Legion members in attendance at Springfield, April 2026



Commander John Schneider (TX) (left) and C-in-C Davis (right) approach to place the Loyal Legion wreath.

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|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------|--------|
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| Emblem Medals 14-16K Gold (3-4 month delivery)                 | On Request | _____ | _____  |
| Officer Neck Ribbon                                            | \$32       | _____ | _____  |
| Rosettes (Circle one: Hereditary, Associate, or Honorary)      | \$9        | _____ | _____  |
| Officer Rosette (Circle one: State or National)                | \$24       | _____ | _____  |
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| Book: Union Blue, by PCinC Robert G. Carroon                   | \$25       | _____ | _____  |
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