



LOYAL LEGION HISTORICAL JOURNAL



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

VOL. 62, No. 3

FALL 2005

The Last Farewell in Memory of Corporal John Peyton Byrne

By Karl Frederick Schaeffer, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

The last farewell was held in memory of **Corporal John Peyton Byrne** who is the last known Union soldier to receive the Grand Army of the Republic Grave Service and

eventually buried there.

The Byrne family moved to Memphis, Missouri in 1852. After the shelling of Fort Sumter in 1861 that propelled our nation into civil war, the

Missourians generally sought neutrality. However, violence by **S e c e s s i o n i s t** "bushwhackers" in northeast Missouri prevented this from happening.

Corporal Byrne, his father Samuel, and brothers Harrison and Lucian, enlisted June 1861 in the Union Army, with the 21st Missouri Regimental Infantry Company at Memphis, Missouri. His older brother Charles returned to Virginia and later became a Confederate captain under General Stonewall Jackson. He and his brother

was seriously wounded and hospitalized. The Northeast Missouri was mustered out at Canton, Missouri on February 12, 1862. The newly formed 21st Missouri Infantry was ordered to Pittsburg Landing just northeast of Shiloh, Tennessee.

Corporal Byrne was back in action, now as part of the 6th Division under Major General Ulysses S. Grant's Army of the Tennessee. General Albert S. Johnston launched his Confederate Army against General Grant at daybreak of April 6, 1862. Byrne's unit fought throughout the day, the lead and iron so thick. As one soldier put it, "it appeared like a volcano at full blast." In the two days at Shiloh, 23,746 men were killed, wounded or missing, more than all the casualties in the American Revolution, War of 1812 and the Mexican War combined.

Corporal Byrne survived Shiloh and three other major Civil War battles. On January 28, 1864, the 21st Missouri Infantry was ordered south, where it was to join General William Sherman's Meridian Campaign in Mississippi. The 21st Infantry came under fire by Confederate sharpshooters while en route in a transport boat. Corporal Byrne, who was

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Schaeffer

Corporal John Peyton Byrne's military grave stone was placed next to his brother Lt. Harrison Byrne, a Civil War veteran.

Burial. He was born September 29, 1839 in Kingwood, Virginia. He died January 6, 1920 in Sacramento, California, was cremated and

Harrison saw their first action in August at the Battle of Athens, Missouri, the northern most battle of the Civil War. His brother Harrison

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, Marston Watson, 48 Southwind Circle, Richmond, CA 94804-7404. Information should be typed and photographs may be black and white or in color. Contributions may be made to the Memorial Fund through the National Headquarters.

Message from the Commander-in-Chief



*Commander-in-Chief
Douglas Reed Niermeyer*

It is with a heavy heart that I compose my final Commander-in-Chief message to my fellow companions. Over the past few weeks our nation has had to deal with the massive destruction of *Hurricane Katrina*, the passing of Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, selecting his replacement, and the conflicts in Iraq that continue to keep many of our soldiers in harms way. A number of our members are currently serving overseas in Iraq and in other locations. I ask that you please remember them in your prayers, to keep them safe as possible.

When I became Commander-in-Chief at West Point in 2003, I felt very privileged to accept this honor, realizing that it carries a tremendous responsibility for representing and leading our entire Order. We have an incredibly rich history covering many generations of members who have given so much to the building, protecting and leading our country, as well as our Order. I may not be a general, or rear admiral, or president of a corporation. However, it is my sincere hope that the efforts that the national officers and I have made over they past two years will continue to make our 140 year old Order stronger. We have had a number of great friends of the Order who have passed away over this same period. Let us remember one more time the contributions in life and in death of Companion **Tom Johnson** of Wisconsin and Companion **Malcolm Smith** of New York, both of whom named MOLLUS as a minor beneficiary in their wills which is now being added to our Memorial Fund.

There are many ways that any member can contribute to our Order, as we all have different skills and interests that are beneficial to the Order. Recently, we began a new project publishing the biographies of the past Commanders-in-Chief of MOLLUS online at <http://suvcw.org/mollus/pcinc/pcinc.htm>, including 30 of the 54 biographies that are posted online already. Many of these have been published in past issues of the *Journal*, to the benefit of our long-term members. Now, newer members and the public at large can benefit by learning more about the contributions of these men. We will continue to publish this series in the *Journal*, with the next biography about **Rear Admiral Reginald Rowan Belknap, USN**. He was a second generation rear admiral and second

generation Companion of MOLLUS. The United States Navy and our country owe a great debt to his World War I service, which can hardly be over-estimated but is not very well known to the general public today.

Biloxi, Mississippi, Beauvoir and the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library (which opened May 30, 1998) suffered heavy damage from *Hurricane Katrina*. The Library pavilion (where Jefferson Davis penned *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*, Hayes cottage, Soldier's Home Barracks replica, Confederate Soldiers Museum, gift shop, and director's home were totally destroyed. The salvage ability of the collections, structures and library is not completely known yet. The Presidential Library maintained a collection of 6,500 books on United States history, Southern history, and history of the American Civil War. The library also maintained collections of photographs, personal letters, manuscripts, newspaper clippings and records from the veterans home that once was present on the grounds. There are a number of websites with information on Beauvoir and the Presidential Library, for more details including a virtual tour of the buildings and part of the collection prior to the Hurricane. Here is one such website <<http://www.beauvoir.org/prezlib.html>>. This is an example of why it is best not to keep the history of our Order locked away. We will continue to add to the projects we have been publishing online from our own, one-of-a-kind files.

I want to thank you all for you support, as I have developed many close friendships over the years in MOLLUS, many of whom are as close to me as my own family. LEX REGIT ARMA TUENTUR, *Arms are Borne so the Law May Rule*.

Signing Off,
Commander-in-Chief
Douglas Reed Niermeyer



LOYALLEGIONHISTORICAL
JOURNAL

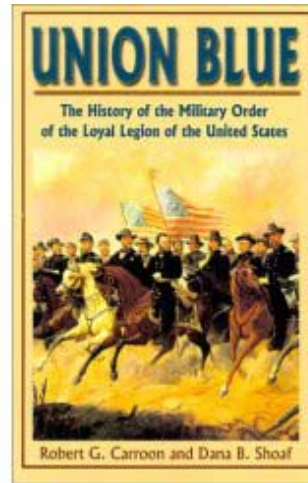
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UNION BLUE

by Robert Girard Carroon

UNION BLUE: The History of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion may be ordered from the Connecticut Commandery, MOLLUS, 23 Thomson Road, West Hartford, CT 06107-2535. The numbered edition for MOLLUS Companions signed by Past Commander-in-Chief Robert Girard Carroon is available at \$30.00 a copy, postpaid. Please make checks out to The Memorial Fund of MOLLUS.



MOLLUS WEBSITE

<http://suvchw.org/mollus.html>

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Layout and Production

Printed by Cerrito Printing

Remembering "MOLLUS" In Your Will

After you provide for your family and other matters, would you consider including a memorial gift in your 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.

seriously wounded and unable to return to duty, was mustered out December 5, 1864 at Memphis,

Corporal Byrne married **Mary Whorton** in Memphis, Missouri in 1864 and eventually moved to California. Unable to have children, they adopted an abandoned boy whom they named John Bruce Byrne. Mary Byrne died in 1906 and was buried in California. John Peyton Byrne joined his son's family when they moved later to Sacramento, California and died January 6, 1920. He was cremated the next day. His son, John Bruce Byrne died in 1951 and was buried in the same cemetery as the mausoleum that held his father's remains.

"The Last Farewell" of Corporal John Peyton Byrne became a reality because of a very determined great-great niece, **Margaret Gordon**, who was doing her family genealogy. She looked for Corporal Byrne's remains for three years, as he was the brother of her direct ancestor, Harrison Byrne. The successful search led to the location of Corporal Bryne's cremated remains, which had lain forgotten in an aging ornate urn on a shelf in that Sacramento, California

mausoleum for eighty-five years. Margaret's discovery set in motion the events leading to the re-interment of Corporal Byrne's remains at Memphis, Missouri.

The ceremonies for this former Memphis citizen commenced on Friday, May 27, 2005, with a 24-hour vigil that began at 12:00 noon at the Payne Funeral Chapel across the street from the Scotland County Court House. This is where Corporal Byrne volunteered for the Missouri Home Guard at age 21 years. Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War and re-enactors, who were dressed in Union uniforms, provided an honor guard which changed every half-hour throughout the vigil. Memphis Mayor **Mike Stone** welcomed guests from the courthouse steps. A replica of a Civil war field hospital was located at the City square.

President and Mrs. Abraham Lincoln appeared at the Memphis Theater in "An Evening with Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln at the White House," portrayed by **Max and Donna Daniels** of Wheaton, Illinois. This hour-long stage performance depicted President Lincoln's departure for Ford's Theater on that fateful evening of April 15, 1865. It

was a truly professional stage production!

Charles Funck, Missouri Department Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (a MOLLUS Companion), portrayed General John A. Logan of Southern Illinois, whose Order 11 established Memorial Day. His wife **Ruth Funck**, a member of DOLLUS, was also present. The Memphis City Singers, the Company Singers, bagpipers **Dave Parker** and **Davy McKay** of Fort Dodge, Iowa, along with the Sons of Union Veterans, provided period music Friday afternoon and evening.

Roger Boyd of Athens, Missouri described the Battle of Athens in Northeast Missouri and Margaret Gordon delivered a moving eulogy to her very honorable uncle. These various events in remembrance of Corporal Byrne during the day and in the evening sent a message of respect for this former Memphis resident, leading up to his final resting place.

Shortly after noon on Saturday, May 28, **Roger Shannon**, Past Commander of Iowa's Sons of Union Veterans sang "Going Home", as six Union soldiers carried the casket to a hearse from the 1861 era. A Civil War color guard, Infantry and Cavalry units, dignitaries and others followed the hearse for the mile and a half to the Memphis City Cemetery.

Shuttle buses transported visitors to and from the cemetery, where Corporal Byrne's descendants placed the casket on wooden planks over the grave. Children strew rose petals as the coffin was carried to the grave, and Fifer **Eric Fricke** played *When Johnny Comes Marching Home*. Members clad in black uniforms of the Grand Army of the Republic, originally formed by veterans of the Civil War, conducted a "Burial for the Dead." This ritual was established in



L-R: Rosemary Schaeffer, Karl Schaeffer, Pat Mullenix, Lee Ann Russell and Margaret Gordon enjoyed breakfast at the Junction Café in Memphis. Pat, Lee Ann and Margaret were key organizers of this historic military remembrance.

1879 for dying Civil War comrades. Infantrymen and artillery fired numerous gun salutes and five active duty military personnel laid wreaths, along with many other military orders.

As members of the Veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic thinned, there were five organizations to carry on their duties. This group of five organizations was called the Allied Orders. They performed the duty of lying to rest their last veteran, Corporal John Peyton Byrne, and all American war veterans.

Rosemary Schaeffer, National President of the Dames of the Loyal Legion of the United States and her husband, **Karl F. Schaeffer**, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, introduced the following representatives of the five Allied Orders: **Shirley Boris** (member and Past National President of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War for the Woman's Relief Corp), **Lynne Bury** (National President for the Grand Army of the Republic, Inc.) who was accompanied by her daughter **Elizabeth (Beth) Rock** of DOLLUS and her husband **Robert Rock** of MOLLUS, **Ozzie Thompson** (National President for the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865), **Don Palmer** (National Chief of Staff, Missouri, Past Department Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War), **Mary L. Fritz** (National Chaplain for the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans), and Companion **Jack G. Grothe** of the MOLLUS Missouri Commandery (Commander of the 4th Military District for the Sons of Veterans Reserve) and his wife Maggie (Master of Ceremonies and the Military Commander for his historic burial),

When the countless number of tributes and ceremonies at the grave sites were completed, **Robert Ericson** of Quincy, Illinois took his place at Corporal Byrne's grave site. Echoed by three distant buglers, Ericson played the 21 notes that form the melody for taps and rest, for the Missouri soldiers. This was Robert Ericson's second footnote to history, as he was the soldier whose playing of taps in Panmunjom, Korea, on July 27, 1953, signaled the end of the Korean War.

Re-enactors of Union soldiers conducted sentry duty at the grave site until sundown on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, 2005. This small cemetery, with its weathered

monuments, casting soft and silent shadows over the grass covered knoll on which it rests, is where the remains of a gallant Union Civil War soldier was laid to eternal rest. It was a wonderful and emotional experience for all who attended this eventful farewell to Corporal John Peyton Byrne. This historic military burial will eventually be shown on the History Channel, later this year possibly. One further note: The last Civil War veteran buried prior to Corporal Byrne was **Albert Woolson** of Duluth, Minnesota, who died August 2, 1956 at the age of 109. Woolson was about fourteen years old when his mother signed off to allow him to join the Union army as a drummer.

Welcome New Companions

The following Companions have joined the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States since May 2005. We wish to extend a warm welcome to each and every one.

Keith G. Harrison, Chancellor-in-Chief

<u>Companions</u>	<u>Insignia #</u>	<u>Commandery</u>
<i>Hereditary Companions</i>		
Mr. Richard Dana Smith, Jr	22409	Pennsylvania
Mr. Peter Platten	22410	Pennsylvania
Mr. Nicolas Ignacio Quintana	22411	Connecticut
Mr. John Edward Schneider	22412	Texas
Mr. Marston Watson	22413	Wisconsin
Mr. John Theophil Duchesneau	22416	Rhode Island
Mr. Ross Gamble Perry	22417	Virginia
Mr. Justin William Burden	22418	Virginia
<i>Junior Hereditary Companions</i>		
Mr. Patrick Joseph Coleman	22408	Pennsylvania
Mr. Hunter Hollinger Lyon	22414	Ohio
Mr. Maxwell Porter Lyon	22415	Ohio
<i>Associate Companions</i>		
Mr. Bradley Alan Tilton	A195	Ohio
Hon. Frank John Williams	A196	Rhode Island

Eulogy to Brian C. Pohanka

Noted military historian **Brian C. Pohanka**, aged 50, passed on June 15, 2005 from complications due to melanoma, at his home in Alexandria, Fairfax County, Virginia. A graduate of Sidwell Friends School and Dickinson College, he devoted many years to the study of the 19th and early 20th century, with emphasis on the American Civil War and the battle of Little Bighorn. He was a senior researcher, writer and advisor on all of Time-Life Books' Civil War projects, and was Series Consultant for the A&E History Channel television documentary Civil War Journal.

In addition to his frequent lectures and appearances in television documentaries and independent video productions, Pohanka served as an historical advisor and military coordinator for a number of films. They included Turner Pictures' *Gettysburg* and *Gods and Generals* and Academy Award-winning films *Glory* (for which he recruited and instructed a company of soldiers for the 54th Massachusetts) and *Cold Mountain*.

Among the numerous books Brian authored are *Distant Thunder: A Photographic Essay on the Civil War*, *The Civil War: An Aerial Portrait*, *Landscapes of the Civil War* and *Don Troiani's Civil War Art*. He co-authored *Mapping the Civil War*, *Custer's Field* and *Myles Keogh: An Irish Dragoon in the 7th Cavalry*. His recently completed works include: *The Place Where Custer Fell*, a photographic history of the Little Bighorn battlefield, which will be published by the University of

Oklahoma Press and *A Summer on the Plains With Custer's 7th Cavalry*, the diary of a young woman who married one of Custer's officers. His long-time project, a regimental history of the Fifth New York Zouaves, will be published posthumously.

Brian was fervent in the cause of Civil War battlefield preservation, and served on the boards of several preservation organizations, several of which he founded. He was honored in 2004 by The Civil War Preservation Trust with its *Battlefield Preservationist of the Year* award, and by The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust with that organization's battlefield preservation award. He was a member of The

Company of Military Historians, The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and an Honorary Companion of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. He was well known for his participation in Civil War living history as Captain of Company A, 5th New York Volunteer Infantry, Durzee's Zouaves.

Brian was a lifelong resident of the metro District of Columbia area. He is survived by his wife Cricket Bauer Pohanka, his father John Pohanka of the District of Columbia, his sister Susan Pohanka of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania and his brother Geoffrey Pohanka of Vienna, Virginia, as well as numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. His mother, Jean Powers Pohanka, died in 1987.



Brian C. Pohanka

The Pope of Pope Park

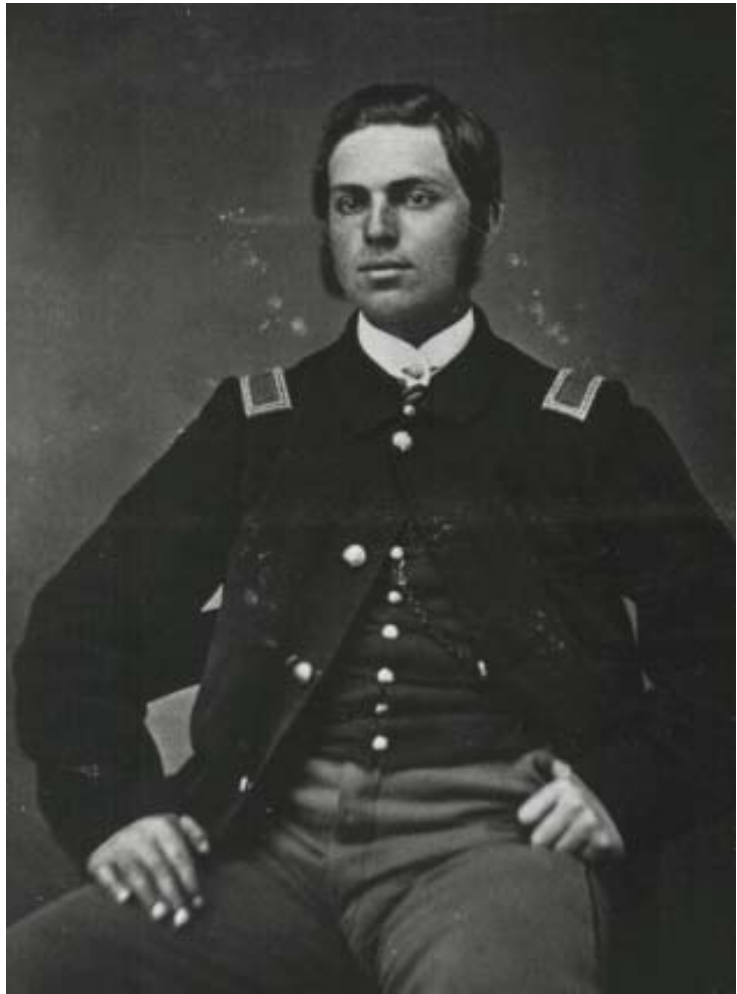
By Rev. Dr. Robert G. Carroon
Connecticut Commandery

Pope Park in Hartford, Connecticut is one of the largest parks in the city, located just off of Park Street near Trinity College. The park is named for **Albert Augustus Pope**, a native of Massachusetts who became famous as a manufacturer of bicycles and automobiles in Hartford. His entrepreneurial empire eventually encompassed plants in Indianapolis and Toledo, as well as Hartford and Boston.

Albert Pope was born in Boston on May 20, 1843. He was the son of Charles Pope and Elizabeth Bergman. He was a distant relative of Major General John Pope who commanded the Army of Virginia at the second battle of Bull Run.

Albert's military career began with his enlistment and commissioning as a second lieutenant in the 35th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry on August 27, 1862. He saw action with the 35th at most of the principal battles with the Army of the Potomac. Also, he served with Ambrose Burnside at Knoxville in Tennessee and Ulysses S. Grant at Vicksburg in the western theater. He returned East in time to participate in the battles of Poplar Spring Church and Petersburg in Virginia.

Albert Pope was promoted to First Lieutenant on March 23, 1863 and Captain on April 1, 1864. He was brevetted Major on March 13, 1865 for "gallant conduct at the battles of South Mountain and Antietam in Maryland and Fredericksburg, Virginia." He was brevetted Lieutenant Colonel the same day, with the United States Volunteers for "gallant conduct in the battles of Knoxville, Poplar Springs



Albert Augustus Pope

Carroon

Church and in front of Petersburg." It was while at Petersburg that he commanded what came to be called "Fort Hell." He led the 35th Massachusetts in the last attack on the Confederate lines, which caused the fall of the city. This battle forced General Robert E. Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia to begin their retreat to Appomattox Court House and eventual surrender.

Albert Pope organized the Pope Manufacturing Company in Hartford in 1877. Its principle products were bicycles, primarily his most famous Hartford and Columbia models. Although he purchased a number of European patents for his bicycles, he is considered the founder of the bicycle industry in the United States. While Pope lived primarily in Boston,

his work was carried on in Hartford and in other cities. One of his most interesting bicycles was the Pope Military Cycle, which was tested by the Connecticut National Guard Signal Corps. His variations included a small mountain howitzer on a tricycle and a Colt light machine gun mounted on the front handlebars. However, he did not have much success in selling these items to the United States Army. Pope's major competitor, A. G. Spalding, donated bicycles to the army. However, they were not used to any great extent after tryouts in Montana proved their lack of success.

It was not long before Albert Pope moved from bicycles to the manufacturing of automobiles. His first

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cars were electric runabouts. Later in Hartford, he turned out the Pope-Hartford (one of these cars is on display in the West Hartford office of the American Automobile Association) and in Toledo the Pope-Toledo. He engaged in a number of philanthropic activities including providing the land which eventually became Pope Park in Hartford.

Albert A. Pope was elected Companion of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States on May 1, 1872, through the State of Massachusetts Commandery. His assigned insignia number was 1428. His son, **Albert Linder Pope**, was elected Companion in succession on December 6, 1893 in the same Commandery with the assigned insignia number 10348. He transferred afterwards to the New York Commandery. **Harold Linder Pope**, also a son of Albert A. Pope, was elected Companion by inheritance on April 5, 1911 by the Massachusetts Commandery, with the assigned insignia number 16483.

Albert Pope was only one of the companions of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion who contributed both as an effective officer in the Civil War and as a business leader in the decades after 1865. He is the only Civil War officer memorialized in an important recreational facility in Hartford.



COMMANDERY NEWS

Connecticut Commandery Elects New Officers

The Connecticut Commandery held its annual meeting June 26, 2005 in the Grand Army of the Republic Hall (New England Civil War Museum and Library) in Rockville, Connecticut. The Companions elected and installed as officers are: **Waldron K. Post** (Commander), **William Chase, Jr.** (Sr. Vice Commander), **Harold Lee Colvocoreesses** (Vice Commander), **Lee Allen Tryon** (Recorder/Treasurer), **Donald Reid** (Registrar), **Greg Mierka** (Historian), **Robert Warren Storm, Esq.** (Chancellor), **The Rev. Canon Robert G. Carroon** (Chaplain), **Lee Allen Tryon** (Surgeon), **Alan Eugene Green, Esq.** (Judge Advocate) and **William Frederick Suter** (Nominating Committee Chairman). New Council members are: Robert Warren Storm, **Col. Edward Ashwell Raymond**, **Col. Terrance McGurk** and The Rev. Canon Robert G. Carroon.

Kentucky Commandery Receives Congressional Recognition

Republican United States Senator from Kentucky, **Jim Bunning**, formally recognized the efforts of MOLLUS members who made the Kentucky Commandery a reality. He read the following statement into the Congressional Record on June 30, 2005.

“Mr. President, today I rise to congratulate the hard work of fellow Kentuckians to establish the Kentucky

Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States was established by a group of Federal officers formed to act as an honor guard for the remains of President Abraham Lincoln. These officers later met to form a society to commemorate the events and principles of the War of the Rebellion. MOLLUS became the first military society based upon the War of Rebellion to be formed. Over 125 officers of Kentucky regiments, as well as over a dozen general officers and admirals of Kentucky birth, were original companions of MOLLUS. At the MOLLUS National Congress in October of 2004, the dedicated efforts of the Kentucky members paid off, as the Commonwealth of Kentucky was granted full Commandery status. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the members of the Kentucky Commandery for their hard work and dedication to their principles.

Timothy Downey of Hustonville and the late **Dave Adkinson** of Frankfort began work on forming the Commandery in 2003. Downey was elected Commander of the organization, a position which he still holds. Adkinson was retired from the Emergency Management Administration, Kentucky Department of Military Affairs, where he served as Coordinator for Search and Rescue Programs. Downey is a professional educator currently teaching a Corrections Adult Education program through Kentucky’s Somerset Community College. Both were awarded the MOLLUS Lincoln Recruiting Medal for their efforts.”

New Home for Michigan Commandery

By Bruce B. Butgereit, Commander Michigan Commandery

The Michigan Commandery is proud to claim the Plymouth (Michigan) Historical Museum officially as its new home, with three meetings held there already in 2005. With our focus on honoring and perpetuating the life of our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, it was a perfect marriage given the Museum's extensive Abraham Lincoln Collection and exhibits.

The Abraham Lincoln collection was opened in 2002 at the Museum, as a result of the lifetime collection, amassed over 70 years by **Dr. Weldon Petz** (Honorary Companion, #22230). His compilation features artifacts from ten stages of Lincoln's life, over 1,200 books, a keyword searchable database, and over 2,000 photographs and clip-files of Lincoln and various documents. Other items include books belonging to young Abe Lincoln, family genealogy, handwritten legal cases, a lock of Lincoln's hair, silk flowers from the President's casket, and much more. The Museum has a total of 26,000 square feet of exhibits and research material, including a recreation of the 19th Century American experience, a Main Street of shops, special exhibits,



a gift shop and ever important educational programs.

The Michigan Commandery was also represented at the rededication of the Michigan Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument in Detroit, Michigan on April 9, 2005. Conducted by Bruce B. Butgereit, Michigan Commandery Commander, the ceremony mirrored that of the original 133 years earlier in Campus Martius Park in downtown Detroit. Highlights of this event included participation by the Detroit Police Department Color Guard and the Male Chorus of the Second Baptist Church

of Detroit, just as they both did in 1872. The City of Detroit had not seen such an event since the dedication of the monument with over 600 spectators and well over one hundred participants, including members of MOLLUS/DOLLUS and each of the five Allied



Keith Harrison, Chancellor-in-Chief; Fred Roberts, MI Commandery SVC; Bruce B. Butgereit, MI Commander; and Dr. Weldon Petz

Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic. MOLLUS was represented in 1872 by Generals Philip Sheridan, Ambrose Burnside, George Custer and Russell A. Alger, along with close to 2,000 veterans of the Civil War.

The Michigan Commandery is involved currently in a project that includes working with the State of Michigan, to correct erroneous information on an historical marker involving the Woodruff brothers, George and William of Marshall, Michigan. They both served as lieutenants in the 1st U.S. Field Artillery, Battery D and the 1st Michigan Infantry Regiment respectively. A marker near the family mausoleum in Marshall states accurately that, after George was killed defending against Pickett's charge at Gettysburg, his father brought the body back home for final burial. However, it states incorrectly that William died from wounds received at Petersburg and is buried at Gettysburg National Cemetery. After extensive research, William was found to be one of the first officers buried in Mrs. Lee's Rose Garden at the then new Arlington Cemetery. The new marker will have the correct information about one of Michigan's young officers.

Active State Commanderies of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

- California
- Connecticut
- District of Columbia
- Iowa
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- New York
- Ohio
- Oklahoma (Provisional)
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- Tennessee (Provisional)
- Texas
- Virginia

Missouri Commandery Meeting and Dedication Ceremony

The Missouri Commandery participated in a dedication ceremony on July 16, 2005 in Eureka, Missouri with the SUVCW and the Eureka Historical Society. The ceremony took place at a deserted small family cemetery to dedicate a plaque, which noted the service of **Major William C. Inks**, commander of the Pacific Battalion Home Guard during the Civil War. Senior Vice Commander **Gary Scheel** of the Missouri MOLLUS, who is greatly responsible for this project, acted as the master of ceremonies. A work day was held last November to repair Major Inks' tombstone, set the marker and clean up the abandoned cemetery. Members of the SUVCW and MOLLUS companions Gary Scheel, **Jack Grothe** and **Richard Giebler** participated in this project. The

local SUVCW Camp has now taken on the service project for the cemetery upkeep.

The Commandery held its last meeting on August 13, 2005 in conjunction with the Civil War Reenactment in Kimmswick, Missouri. The camps were 1863 style with over 200 reenactors participating. A skirmish took place throughout the streets, ending at the city park. The Commandery meeting was held on the Lt. Robert E. Lee Riverboat with 13 members and guests attending, including some prospective new members of MOLLUS and DOLLUS. There was plenty of time after the meeting to tour the camps and antique shops and see the battle, making it a fun and educational day for the whole family.



Gary Scheel, Senior Vice Commander (kneeling to the left of the tombstone) and Douglas Niermeyer (far right) joined members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at the Missouri Commandery dedication ceremony.

Niermeyer

Virginia Commandery News

The Commandery has presented ROTC Merit Medals this year to deserving cadets at the University of Richmond, The College of William and Mary, and Christopher Newport University.

Several Commandery members helped lead a memorial service in rural Northern Virginia on 25 June to recognize fallen federal cavalymen. The event, held annually at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church cemetery, honors twelve troopers of the 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry killed on 6 July 1864 in action against Col. John Mosby. The commander of the 2nd Massachusetts, Maj. (later Lt. Col.) William Forbes, became MOLLUS companion #01182. The graves were first marked several years ago, partly through the efforts of Companion **David Condon** and his wife **Harriet**, who are active in preservation efforts at the church.



From R-L, companions Alex Burden, Jared Burden, and Dave Penhallow were among those at the Mt. Zion ceremony.

Companion **Jeffry Burden** received a Certificate of Recognition on 12 September from the Virginia Society, Military Order of the Stars and Bars, recognizing his effort to mark the grave of a Confederate surgeon. **Dr. Charles Bell Gibson** and his staff treated hundreds of Union wounded and sick, in addition to Confederate casualties, from 1861 to 1864. The government-supplied marker was dedicated in Richmond in April.



Jodi Koste of the Medical College of Virginia, where Dr. Gibson worked before the war, unveils his grave marker on 30 April.

Pennsylvania Commandery Invites MOLLUS Companions to the 120th Annual Congress

The clock is ticking if you still want to tour the city of brotherly love, enjoy the fellowship of your companions and visit the birthplace of The Military Order of the Loyal Legion, at the 120th Annual Congress of MOLLUS. You will find your reservation form in the last issue of the Journal for this October 14-16 gala event and important election of new officers. You will need to call the hotel now as space is very limited!

As reported in the last issue, our headquarters for this special event is The Union League, which was founded in 1862 to support President Abraham Lincoln and the federal government during the Civil War. You will have the opportunity to see over 250 paintings, sculptures and prints, as well as more than 300 artifacts including manuscripts, letters, guns, flags and historic papers.

What a rare opportunity you will have to visit this historic library, filled with thousands of rare volumes on Lincoln and the Civil War. The section of the building facing Broad Street is the only residential building in Philadelphia built during the Civil War.

The Inn at the Union League delivers an incomparable mix of distinctive history and old world hospitality in the heart of central Philadelphia. This beautifully-appointed Inn offers an elegant setting for the 120th Annual Congress. It is an opportunity you will not want to miss.



Military Order of the Loyal Legion
 Keith Harrison
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NOTICE

The Winter Issue of
*The Loyal Legion
 Journal*
 will be published in
 December 2005

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