



# LOYAL LEGION HISTORICAL JOURNAL



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## The Lincolns of Pennsylvania

By Adam P. Flint, Registrar-in-Chief

As a resident of Pennsylvania and living less than 10 miles from the Old Lincoln Homestead, I thought it would be fitting to write about President Lincoln's Pennsylvania family roots. The property long known as the Lincoln Homestead is located on Lincoln Road in the present township of Exeter, Berks County, Pennsylvania. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hopes to acquire it as one of the important historical sites administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The house thereon, built in 1733 by a direct ancestor of our great president Abraham Lincoln, is still standing which accounts for its historical significance.

Like hundreds of thousands of his fellow citizens of the middle western states, Lincoln's ancestors had lived in Pennsylvania, moved southward

through the Great Valley into Virginia, passed through the Cumberland Gap into Kentucky and then moved across the Ohio River into the Old Northwest. His people were a part of the tide of settlement, which pushed the frontier westward, redeeming the land from the wilderness and building the new states of the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys.

There were three generations of Lincolns, ancestors of the President, who lived in Berks County Pennsylvania: Mordecai, the great-great-grandfather; John, the great-grandfather; and Abraham, the grandfather. The story of the Pennsylvania Lincolns originates with two brothers, Mordecai and Abraham, who came into the state from New Jersey in the year 1720. Mordecai eventually settled in what is now Berks County and was the great-great-grandfather of President Lincoln. Mordecai's brother Abraham settled in Philadelphia and some of his descendants still reside in that city.

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## Lincoln and Philadelphia

By John C. Rumm, Ph.D.

He has been dead 140 years, but still makes news. In April 2005, his new presidential library and museum opened with much fanfare. In Philadelphia, an Equality Forum panel on whether he was our first "gay president" triggered much debate. And, in July 2005, the National Constitution Center premiered *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, a 2,500-square foot traveling exhibition. All this is but a prelude to the approaching bicentennial of his birth in 2009. Abraham Lincoln, in short, is *hot*.

Given his popularity, it is no surprise that many people lay claim to Lincoln. He was born in Kentucky, so the Bluegrass State claims him by birthright. But the Hoosier State also claims him, because Lincoln's family moved to Indiana when he was young, and he grew up there. And, of course, Illinois proudly hails Lincoln as its native son. But how about a place where our 16th President never lived? Say, for example, our own City of Brotherly Love? Far-fetched as it may seem, can Philadelphians claim Lincoln as our own? We can, because Abraham Lincoln himself laid claim to *us*.

Lincoln did so while in Philadelphia on February 22, 1861, on George Washington's birthday. He was making an eleven-day rail tour from Springfield to Washington for his inauguration. On November 7, 1860, Lincoln

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Lincoln Homestead on Lincoln Road, Exeter, Berks County, Pennsylvania

Flint

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*

The celebration of President Abraham Lincoln's 197th Birthday in Washington, D.C. ended with a rare cancellation. A winter storm blanketed Washington with six inches of snow during the night of February 11th, and the National Park Service made the decision the morning of the 12th to cancel the ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial. Despite this, the weekend celebrations were successful and well attended, with the MOLLUS and DOLLUS Luncheon and Mid-Winter Meetings on Saturday, the banquet Saturday evening at the Army Navy Club, and the LBNCC Luncheon at the Channel Inn on Sunday. Special appreciation is due to the District of Columbia Commandery for hosting this annual event, and in particular to Companions Peter A. Dixon, George E. Walton and Jerry W. Zillion.

During the Meeting on Saturday there were reports from the officers and committee chairmen covering the activities since the last Annual Congress. Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Keith G. Harrison reported on the success of advertising the Loyal Legion in the Civil War Courier and the Civil War News. This has been an effective way of recruiting new members, and will be continued for the coming year. It was also decided that future issues of the Loyal Legion Historical Journal will be posted on our web site in order to provide greater access to this valuable publication. We continue to collaborate with Carole A. Murphy on her production of Civil War Medicine. Ms. Murphy is the president of JAMCO Films in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She is producing a four part series for television on medical treatments and procedures during the Civil War. This project has been endorsed by the Loyal Legion, as well as The Abraham Lincoln Foundation of the Union League of Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, and The Philadelphia Foundation, among others.

Unfortunately, the snow on February 12th prevented the presentation of the Frederick T. D. Hunt Award. The Hunt Award is given annually by the District of Columbia Commandery, and is presented by the Commander-in-Chief and the D.C. Commander at the Lincoln Memorial to a student at the Severn School, Maryland, for excellence in history. This year's recipient was Sean A. Quinn, and we wish him well in his future studies.



*Commander-in-Chief  
Benjamin C. Frick*

In December we published a new Roster, with updated officer listings and membership listings for both MOLLUS and DOLLUS. The information in this Roster can only be as accurate as the information we all provide to our state Recorders, and that the Recorders communicate to the Commandery-in-Chief. Please be sure to check your listing and send any changes to your state Recorder.

The mailing of the Roster included a letter and a reply envelope. The Roster was provided to all members of MOLLUS and DOLLUS without charge, but the production of this publication did entail expense to the Loyal Legion. We hope that you will consider a donation to the "Loyal Legion Memorial Fund" so that we may continue the educational and preservation works of the Loyal Legion.

The officers and committees of the Commandery-in-Chief continue to be available to the state commanderies as a resource. If state officers need assistance or advice, or could benefit from partnerships on projects, you are encouraged to contact any Commandery-in-Chief officer or committee chairman. The success and strength of the Loyal Legion comes from your participation in your state commandery, and the Commandery-in-Chief stands ready to support your efforts.

I look forward to seeing you at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee, October 20-22, for the 121st Annual Congress.

Benjamin C. Frick  
Commander-in-Chief





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## A Salute to New Companions

In support of the Membership Campaign of 2005 and 2006, we extend a warm welcome and a military salute to those recently elected companions (since November 2005) of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States.

### Jeffrey C. Burden, Chancellor-in-Chief

Military Companion	Insignia #	Commandery
<i>Hereditary Companions</i>		
Stephen Scott Hammond	22425	Penn
Charles Andrew Frick	22426	Penn
Dudley Dennison Fincke	22427	Penn
Edward Otho Cresap Ord IV	22428	Cal
Garland Hurst Pilliar	22429	Cal
John Henry Stuhrman IV	22430	Virginia
John William Myers III	22431	Virginia
George Howard Brett II	22432	Virginia
Charles MacGregor Park Beckford	22433	Wis
Stuart Dean Brandes	22434	Wis
Kenneth Douglas Stuart Beckford	22435	Wis
John Gammie Greene	22436	R.I.
Ian Nathanael Greene	22437	R.I.
H. Mitchell Schmidt	22438	Penn
Jan David DeWitt	22439	Ohio
Charles Heyward Roberts	22440	Ohio
<i>Associate Companions</i>		
Todd Hunter	A205	Wis
Myron Crenshaw Smith	A206	Mass.
Daniel Lee Whetstone	A207	Virginia

### Hereditary Membership Program

This continuous program is in effect each fiscal year, October 1 through September 30. Each Companion who recruits a minimum of three (3) new Hereditary Companions each fiscal year will be awarded a "Lincoln MOLLUS Certificate of Appreciation" along with a "Lincoln Membership Medal of Honor" presented by our Commander-in-Chief. These awards will be presented at our annual National Congress, the Lincoln Memorial Ceremony in Washington, D.C. and at the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in Springfield, IL. For those Companions physically unable to attend one of these events alternate arrangements can be made but we encourage everyone to try to attend at least one of these three major yearly events. Membership, new and current, is the lifeblood of our historic Military Order and will ensure that our noble Order will endure for countless generations to come.

#### Publisher

Benjamin C. Frick  
*Commander-in-Chief*

#### Editor-in-Chief

Marston Watson

#### Assistant Editor

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*Layout and Production*

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El Cerrito, California

#### MOLLUS WEBSITE

Loyal Legion Historical Journal is now online!

<http://www.suvcw.org/mollus/mollus.htm>

President Lincoln's knowledge of his ancestry was exceedingly vague. In a brief biographical sketch prepared in December, 1859, he wrote: "My paternal grandfather, Abraham Lincoln, emigrated from Rockingham County, Virginia, to Kentucky, about 1781 or 2, where a year or two later he was killed by Indians, not in battle, but by stealth ... his ancestors went to Virginia from Berks County, Pennsylvania. An effort to identify them with the New England family of the same name ended in nothing more definite than a similarity of Christian names in both families, such as Enoch, Levi, Mordecai, Solomon, Abraham and the like". Later research has established the New England connection, which Lincoln was unable to make.

### **Mordecai, The Great-Great Grandfather**

Mordecai was the earliest direct Lincoln ancestor of the President to settle in Pennsylvania. With him came his brother Abraham, the first of the Lincoln clan to bear that name. They were the sons of Mordecai Lincoln of Scituate, Massachusetts, and the grandsons of Samuel Lincoln of Hingham, Massachusetts, the first Lincoln progenitor of the President to settle in America.

Both Mordecai and his brother Abraham lived in New Jersey about seven years before migrating to Pennsylvania. While residing in New Jersey, Mordecai married Hannah Saltar of Freehold, to which union there were born one son, John, and five daughters. One of the daughters died in infancy and lies buried in Monmouth County, New Jersey.

Mordecai and Hannah Lincoln and their family settled at "Scoolkill," later called Coventry Township in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Here Mordecai in partnership with Samuel Nutt and William Branson operated a forge on French Creek. Just how long Mordecai remained here is difficult to determine. There is some indication that he intended to return to New Jersey as he sold his interest in the forge for five hundred pounds on December 14, 1726, and five months later he bought of Richard Saltar

a tract of land in Monmouth County, New Jersey. Apparently, it was about the time of the New Jersey land purchase in 1727 that his wife Hannah passed away and left him with five children, the oldest but eleven and the youngest an infant born shortly before the mother's death.

About two years following Hannah's death, Mordecai re-married in the summer of 1729, Mary Robeson, daughter of Andrew Robeson of Amity, Philadelphia County. Mordecai had located in Exeter Township, Pennsylvania as early as May 15, 1728, at which time he was appointed a commissioner for the defense of the community against the Indians. The same year as his second marriage, he first leased a thousand-acre farm in present Exeter Township, which he later bought. On this tract, not far from Birdsboro, PA, stands a one-and-a-half story, privately owned stone structure, built by Mordecai Lincoln in 1733 (picture). He did not live long enough to enjoy the new house as three years later he passed away at forty-nine years of age. He left his second wife, with not only five children by his first wife, but also three more children by his later marriage, one of them born after the father's death. Although all were under twenty-one, the older children were approaching maturity.

Curiously enough, the Mordecai Lincoln farm is only four miles from the Daniel Boone Homestead, from whence Daniel and his father Squire migrated to North Carolina. Relations between these two famous Pennsylvania families must have been close since both took an active part in public affairs. Mordecai Lincoln served as a commissioner for defense against the Indians in 1728, as a justice of the peace, and an inspector of roads. Abraham Lincoln, youngest son of Mordecai and Mary (Robeson) Lincoln, married Anne Boone, first cousin of Daniel Boone. This marriage provides proof that the Pennsylvania Lincolns were not Quakers, since the Exeter Friends Meeting censured Anne Boone, a Quaker, for marrying "out of meeting." This Abraham was born after his father's death in 1736.

Berks County was not formed until 1752, out of Philadelphia, Lancaster and Chester counties, sixteen years after Mordecai's death. In reality, he never lived in the County, which was later to embrace the land where his old house stands. Most of the descendants of Mordecai Lincoln bearing the Lincoln name are the offspring of Mordecai Jr., Thomas, and Abraham, children by his second wife. Mordecai Lincoln, great-great-grandfather of the President, lived in Pennsylvania at Coventry eight years and at Exeter eight years, a total of sixteen years in Pennsylvania.

### **John Lincoln, The Great Grandfather**

The only son of Mordecai Lincoln by his first wife was named John and he was born in New Jersey on May 3, 1716. He was four years old when his parents moved to Pennsylvania and settled in the Coventry home. John was twelve years old when the family with the stepmother moved to Exeter, Pennsylvania. John had reached the age of twenty when his father died. The next seven years of his life are almost a blank, as there appears to be no record referring to him during this period. There is a tradition extant that he returned to New Jersey where he had inherited some land from his father in Middlesex County. During this period, wherever he may have been, he learned the weaver's trade. In his land transactions, he is designated as a "weaver".

The first home site of John Lincoln is identified by a land warrant assigned to John Lincoln on October 9, 1746. It is for a tract of fifty acres located in Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and the assignment indicates that John Lincoln was then living in that township. Two years later, he purchased a tract of 150 acres bordering on the Schuylkill River for about one third of a mile. It fell within Robeson Township of Lancaster County (now Berks County).

The first record on John Lincoln thus far discovered is the date of his marriage, which occurred on July 5, 1743. His wife was Rebecca Flowers Morris, the widow of James Morris,

by whom she had one son. Her parents were Enoch and Rebecca Flowers who lived in Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Little is known about the Flowers family, except for the fact that Enoch was a Justice of the Peace for Caernarvon Township, where he must have resided. The fact that he and his wife are direct ancestors of President Lincoln would make any information about them important. John Lincoln named his first three sons Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Two other sons John and Thomas and four daughters Hannah, Lydia, Sarah and Rebecca made up the family.

From the time Berks County was established in 1752, the name John Lincoln often appears in the public records especially in the deed books where his many land purchases are recorded. He sold all his Pennsylvania lands in 1765 and moved to the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. The Pennsylvania residence of John Lincoln included eight years at Exeter, seven years at some undetermined location and nineteen years at Caernarvon. It seems certain that he sold his Pennsylvania real estate in 1765 and moved his family to the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia.

### **Abraham Lincoln, The Grandfather**

President Abraham Lincoln was named for this grandfather. It was the story of this grandfather's massacre by the Indians that the President remembered more vividly than any other story told him in boyhood days by his father. To put it in the President's own words: "The story of his death by the Indians and of Uncle Mordecai then fourteen years old, killing one of the Indians is the legend more strongly than all others imprinted on my mind and memory. I am the son of grandfather's youngest son, Thomas".

The massacre took place in the month of May 1786, at Hughes Station in Kentucky about twenty miles east of Louisville. The pioneer was forty-two years of age at the time of his death and he left a widow and

five small children in the wilderness.

The parents of the Pennsylvania Abraham were married on July 5, 1743 and he was born the following year. It is known that on October 9, 1746 when Abraham was two years old his father bought the fifty-acre tract in Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County and settled his family there. However, the exact place of Abraham's parent's residence at the time of his birth has not been definitely established. Possibly John Lincoln may have gained possession of this fifty-acre tract at the time of his marriage. If this were so, then the President's grandfather lived the twenty-one years he resided in Pennsylvania in one location.

President Lincoln's humble roots in Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois are well known. He was born into an obscure backwoods family who moved to Indiana when he was seven. His mother died two years later and his father married the widow Sarah Bush Johnson who exerted a good influence on the boy. What American does not have the face of Abraham Lincoln etched in memory? Ugly-beautiful, manly motherly, it is a face that seems to have the backcountry of Kentucky and Illinois written all over it despite gentleness about the mouth and a penetrating wisdom in the eyes.

### **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.

### **Memorial Fund Donations**

The Loyal Legion Memorial Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization that serves as the charitable arm of the Order. The Memorial Fund publishes the Loyal Legion Roster and the Historical Journal, and supports commemorative observances at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., and the Lincoln Tomb in Springfield, Illinois. The Fund also provides support to the Civil War and Underground Railroad Museum, Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center, Grant Monument Association, Zellwood Historical Society and Museum, GAR Museum and Library, the Civil War Preservation Trust, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Abraham Lincoln Museum at Lincoln Memorial University, among others.

The following have contributed to The Loyal Legion Memorial Fund for the period of October 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006:

#### **The Abraham Lincoln Society**

(\$1,000 and above)

The New York Commandery of MOLLUS

#### **The Ulysses S. Grant Society**

(\$500 to \$999)

Benjamin C. Frick

#### **The William T. Sherman Society**

(\$100 to \$499)

Lenihan O'Connell

Nicholas I. Quintana

Karl and Rosemary Schaeffer

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#### **The Philip H. Sheridan Society**

(up to \$99)

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William A. Christen Jr.

LTC Thomas P. Curtis II

Oliver B. Daugherty

Col. John Dibble Jr.

Robert M. Effmeyer

John C. Freeman

Ruth Marie Funck

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**Letter from John C. Rumm, Ph.D.,  
Executive Director  
Civil War and Underground  
Railroad Museum of  
Philadelphia**

Dear MOLLUS Members,

I am delighted to greet you as Executive Director of the Civil War and Underground Railroad Museum of Philadelphia through what I hope will be a regular column in your magazine. I have had the privilege of getting to know some of you personally, especially Ben Frick and Herb Zearfoss, who represent MOLLUS on the Museum's Board of Governors. Their unfailing dedication and deep-seated commitment to the Museum and its legacy is something in which all MOLLUS members justifiably can take great pride. My colleagues and I are honored to work with Ben and Herb, and, equally important, to value them as friends and supporters.

"If I have seen further," the great English scientist Isaac Newton once said, "it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." We at the Museum are constantly mindful of how we, also, stand atop the shoulders of giants. Among those on whose shoulders we stand are the visionary individuals who, in April 1865, founded MOLLUS and committed themselves to preserving memorabilia and memories of the Civil War. They sought to ensure that future gen-

erations would understand the sacrifices they made, the hardships they endured, and the courage they displayed in the midst of the greatest conflict the still-young nation had yet experienced.

Today, the Museum's collections are significantly larger than the materials donated by those original MOLLUS members. We steward some 3,000 artifacts in a library of about 10,000 volumes, with thousands of photographs and dozens of cubic feet of personal papers and organizational records. By any estimate, our collection ranks as among the most comprehensive of its kind anywhere in the United States. But what makes the materials we care for so distinctive is this crucial fact: roughly four-fifths, if not more, came to us directly from Civil War veterans or their descendants. And, in most instances, we not only can identify the donor, but also begin to flesh out, and give life to, the subject's experiences before, during and after the war.

In some respects I think our name does not properly reflect our purpose. Strictly speaking, we are not "about" either the Civil War or the Underground Railroad, but rather the *experiences of individuals who participated in and lived through these crucial moments*. The distinction is subtle, yet vital. The materials in our collections, and their associated stories, enable us to document, often in poignant and compelling ways, how ordinary people accomplished often extraordinary things. And not simply soldiers who fought on the field of battle and the officers who commanded them, but people from all walks of life, including men, women and children at home who experienced the day-to-day impact of the war. Likewise, though materials on the Underground Railroad and the antislavery movement represent (as of now) only a small portion of our collections, they, also, enable us to present stories of individuals' courage and willingness to risk their lives in seeking freedom. By sharing stories about individuals' experi-

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ences in the epic struggle for freedom that took place during the nineteenth century, we aim to foster a renewed sense of our own obligation to bring that still on-going struggle to fruition.

It is a truism, though one worth repeating, that history is measured in moments, but made by *people*. And not just "big" or "famous" people, but ordinary people like you or me. The task of history and the art of history lie in making this simple truth accessible. All too often, however, history is taught or thought of only in terms of names, dates and places, with little or no regard to its utterly human nature. We must learn to conceive of "history" differently. And, more than simply conceiving of it differently, we also have to *do* "history" differently.

Try this simple test: Ask people what two words make up the word *history*. Odds are they will say *his* and *story*. That's only correct if you allow for a double "s." Here's the real answer: *hi* and *story*. *Hi*, as in "Hello. Welcome. Come in. Sit down. Make yourself comfortable." And *story*, as in "We're eager to tell you about the real-life experiences of a real person who was just like us, except that he or she lived in a different time and place than we do now." *Hi* and *story* when put together is what *history* is all about.

As for this museum, our *history* and *story* are all of one piece. Our roots, and all that we stand for, go back nearly 150 years, but our story really is just beginning. It's one that is not only being told, but *made*, as we work to develop an even more vibrant and compelling museum that will continue telling that story for generations to come. And, like Isaac Newton, we will see further, and do better, by continuing to stand on the shoulders of giants who bear us along.

And so to all who are willing and ready, not only to listen but to help us tell it, especially the members of MOLLUS who have been there from the outset, here is what we have to say: *Hi. Welcome. Come in and join us. Have we got stories to share!*



## 121st MOLLUS Congress at Lincoln Memorial University

By Karl F. Schaeffer

Our Congress at historic LMU in Harrogate, Tennessee will be held from Friday, October 20th to Sunday, October 22, 2006. Consider attending this once in a lifetime, two-fold event - our MOLLUS Congress and LMU's Lincoln Symposium.

MOLLUS and DOLLUS have had a strong connection to LMU and Major General Oliver Otis Howard (#3808) since LMU's charter was issued on February 12, 1897. In late September 1863, our 16th US President, Abraham Lincoln met with General Howard. President Lincoln asked the good General to create a university in the Appalachia, Cumberland Gap region as the people were very poor and he wanted an equal opportunity institution, without regard to race, national origin, sex, age or religion. President Lincoln's wish was realized in 1897 when General Howard, Rev. A. A. Myers and Cyrus Kehr created Lincoln Memorial University in memory of and in dedication to the principles of Abraham Lincoln's life and legacy.

For the first time in one hundred and nine years, all of our MOLLUS and DOLLUS members and their spouses, will have the opportunity to attend our Congress and LMU's Symposium which will be an awesome event. You will have the opportunity to see, listen and talk to some of the greatest American historians and authors during this Symposium, which is intertwined to allow all of us to attend both events during our three days at LMU. I attended LMU's Lincoln Symposium in 2001 and it was a grand event.

LMU will provide their bus to pick up attendees who plan to fly into the Knoxville airport, which is about 60 miles southwest of Harrogate. They will pick you up and then return you to the airport for your departure home. Those who are driving to Harrogate,

check your map for Middlesboro, Kentucky which is just a mile or so north of Harrogate in the farthest southeast corner of Kentucky, which touches the farthest southwest corner of Virginia.

Housing will be at the Holiday Inn Express in Middlesboro. This fine hotel is owned by the Mars Family, two of which are members of the LMU Board of Trustees, financial supporters and graduates of LMU.

Your presence at our 121st Congress and LMU's Lincoln Symposium will be very special for all who attend. Remembering our MOLLUS/DOLLUS patriarch, Abraham Lincoln, LMU founders and our present LMU officials from President **Nancy Moody** down will represent our remembrance of this outstanding University.

### *Lincoln and Philadelphia, from page 1*

had won one of the most momentous presidential elections in American history. Within weeks, the country began falling apart. South Carolina voted to leave the Union in mid-December; by early February, seven more Southern states followed suit. The prospect of civil war loomed large.

Against this backdrop, Lincoln reached Philadelphia on February 21, 1861, and spent the night in the Continental Hotel. Early the next morning, a horse-drawn carriage delivered him to Independence Hall. Inside, he addressed a throng of local dignitaries: *I am filled with deep emotion at finding myself standing here in the place where were collected together the wisdom, the patriotism, the devotion to principle, from which sprang the institutions under which we live.*

*. . . [A]ll the political sentiments I entertain have been drawn, so far as I have been able to draw them, from the sentiments which originated, and were given to the world from this hall in which we stand. I have never had a feeling politically that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence.*

Applause and cheers interrupted

Lincoln's remarks. When he resumed, he described what had animated the American Revolution: *It was not the mere matter of the separation of the colonies from the mother land; but something in that Declaration giving liberty, not alone to the people of this country, but hope to the world for all future time. It was that which gave promise that in due time the weights should be lifted from the shoulders of all men, and that all should have an equal chance. This is the sentiment embodied in that Declaration of Independence.*

For Lincoln, Philadelphia was the cradle of essential American values—liberty and equality. If the United States could not be preserved without abandoning those principles, he said, *I would rather be assassinated on this spot than surrender [them].* After speaking, Lincoln went outside. Standing in front of Independence Hall, he hoisted an American flag to the top of its flagpole. It bore 34 stars—the 34th marking the recent admission of the State of Kansas—and waved as a tribute to the American Union. The fate of that Union would be tested soon, but under Lincoln's guiding hand, it would endure.

In the Lincoln Room of the Civil War and Underground Railroad Museum of Philadelphia, there's a talisman of Abraham Lincoln's visit of February 22, 1861—a tattered fragment of the flag he raised over Independence Hall. It ties us to the man himself, just as he felt tied to Philadelphia. Lincoln visited Philadelphia on a pilgrimage, to celebrate his birthright. In claiming him as our own, we likewise revere the place from where our founding values emanate.

*Dr. Rumm is Executive Director of the Civil War and Underground Railroad Museum of Philadelphia. Prior to assuming his position he was the National Constitution Center's Director of Exhibits, in which capacity he curated its "Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War" exhibition.*

## Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Places Wreath for Father Corby

By Keith G. Harrison,

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief **Keith G. Harrison** of MOLLUS placed a wreath on November 12, 2005 in remembrance for Father **William Corby**, Chaplain of the Irish Brigade. The annual ceremony is held each year in November on the campus of Notre Dame University. It is sponsored by the David D. Porter Camp 116 of the Indiana Department of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). Other wreaths were placed by **Don Darby**, Commander-in-Chief SUVCW, **Gib Young**, Indiana Department Commander SUVCW, and by **Cody Shaw**, Camp Junior Vice Commander and David D. Porter Camp 116 SUVCW. **Allan Loomis**, SUVCW Past Commander-in-Chief and MOLLUS Associate Member, instituted this ceremony several years ago..

Father William Corby served as a Chaplain in the Irish Brigade. He was assigned to the 88th New York Infantry regiment which was composed largely of Irish immigrants, along with the 63rd and 69th New York, the 116th Pennsylvania and 28th Massachusetts regiments. During the Battle of Gettysburg, Father

Corby gained fame for his bold "General Absolution (Forgiveness of Sin) to the soldiers of the Irish Brigade just before they went into battle to assist elements of General Dan Sickles.

After the war, Father Corby returned to Notre Dame University and served two times as its President. He was instrumental in establishing the Notre Dame Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Post #569. The welcoming address during the establishment of the GAR Post was given by General St. Clair Mulholland of the 116th Pennsylvania regiment. He was instrumental later in establishing the statue of Father Corby that sits on the Gettysburg battlefield. An exact replica of the statue can be found on the Notre Dame campus. Father Corby was a member of the MOLLUS Indiana Commandery (insignia #11516).

A salute was made after the ceremony by the 27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve SUVCW, the 35th Indiana Volunteer Infantry and the 7th Indiana Light Artillery. Mark Heath of the Austin Blair Camp 7, Department of Michigan SUVCW played taps.

### *Memorial Fund Donations, from page 5*

Brian A. Gettelfinger  
Major Roy L. Goodale USAF (Ret.)  
Jeffrey Griffith  
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27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve SUVCW, the 35th Indiana Volunteer Infantry and the 7th Indiana Light Artillery salute

# COMMANDERY NEWS

## Connecticut Commandery Celebrates Annual Lincoln Birthday Commemoration

Lee Tryon, Recorder

The Connecticut Commandery's Annual Lincoln Birthday Celebration was held on Saturday, February 25th, 2006 at the Hawthorne Inn, Berlin, Connecticut. Past Commander-in-Chief **Robert G. Carroon** gave the invocation before the meal. Senior Vice-Commander **William G. Chase** called the meeting to order following a social hour and luncheon. Past Connecticut Commander and current Chancellor **Robert W. Storm** led the Pledge of Allegiance and Junior Vice-Commander **Harold L. Colvocoresses** read the Preamble of the Order. Treasurer-in-Chief and Connecticut Commandery Recorder **Lee Allan Tryon**, Companions **Robert Wolff** and **Peter Stevens**, and guest, **Kenneth Roach** attended the meeting as well.

Senior Vice-Commander Chase recognized Companion Peter Stevens' achievement in compiling and editing the military fifes and drums, *Martial Music of the American Civil War Period*, a compendium of martial tunes published in the United States of America. Some of the music included *Bonnie Doon*, *White Cockade*, *Yankee Doodle* and *Quickstep*. Companion Stevens graciously provided a signed copy to each person in attendance.

Companion Carroon, presented a short history of 1st Lt. **Orsamus Roman Fyler** of the 2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery, an original Companion of MOLLUS (Insignia #11872). The Fyler family home is an elegant 1897 Victorian mansion in Torrington, Connecticut (the birthplace of Abolitionist **John Brown**), which was given to the town in 1956. The Hotchkiss-Fyler Museum now serves as the home of the Torrington Historical Society.

Companion Carroon also read an article from the February/March 2006 issue of *The Civil War News*, about the Norwich, Connecticut grave of **Francis**

**Goddard**, a Connecticut resident who spent four years in Confederate service, then returned north to live. Goddard's grave had no marker indicating his military service. A North Carolina Civil War buff, **Larry Laboda**, enlisted the help of the Bentonville, North Carolina chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, which funded an engraved marker to be placed at the foot of the headstone. Laboda flew to Norwich over Veterans Day weekend and spoke at the small dedication ceremony.

Apropos of the story above, Companion Carroon presented information on a program planned for July 30, 2006. A memorial plaque will be dedicated at the Trinity Cemetery in Portland, Connecticut, at the grave of Major General **John Galbraith Pratt**. He is a little known general officer of the Confederate States Army, buried in Connecticut. The General Hebert Camp Commander **Perry Vannoy** and **George Pratt Munson**, General Pratt's 2nd great-grandson will be present for the ceremonies. They will unveil the marker on the 140th anniversary of General Pratt's death.

## Massachusetts Commandery

Frederick A. Stevens, Jr.

### Lincoln Birthday Celebration

On Saturday, February 4, 2006, the Massachusetts Commandery co-sponsored the "Lincoln Day" ceremonies sponsored by the town of Hingham, Massachusetts. The event consists of salutes by reenactor units at the grave of Benjamin Lincoln, followed by a service at First Parish "Old Ship" church. The service features music of the Revolutionary and Civil War Periods. The speaker compared and contrasted the lives of Benjamin and Abraham. After the service, participants paraded to the town square where wreaths were laid at monuments to the Lincolns and salutes were fired.

This is a yearly event for us. Other sponsoring organizations include the Hingham Historical Society and

the Society of the Cincinnati. Massachusetts DOLLUS has also traditionally been a sponsor, and a wreath was provided this year, but regretfully, the MADOLLUS has now disbanded.

A meeting of the Board of Officers was held after the ceremonies. At that meeting we elected **Myron C. Smith, M.D.** as a new associate member.

We were also pleased to see the completion of a project initiated by **Companion Frederic Lincoln** to restore a damaged Civil War soldier statue in the city of Brockton. Membership now stands at 58.

## New York Commandery

Donald L. Twiss

The New York Commandery participated in the annual President's Day Reception on February 15, 2006, as a member of the Conference of Patriotic and Historical Societies of New York City. This Lincoln day celebration, sponsored by the Military Order of Foreign Wars, was held at the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society. It was an opportunity for members of various organizations to get together while honoring the birthdays of Presidents Lincoln and Washington.

The New York Commandery meets monthly on Mondays for dinner, at the Women's National Republican Club, 3 West 51st Street, New York City, courtesy of the Squadron A Association. Companions visiting New York are always welcome to join us. Upcoming dinners will be held on April 10, May 8 (Annual Meeting) and June 5.



## Annual Lincoln Birthday Events in Washington, D. C.

Contributed by Peter A. Dixon and Jeffrey Burden

A number of Lincoln birthday events were held in Washington, D. C. on February 11 and 12, 2006, in which MOLLUS and DOLLUS members and guests participated. This traditional celebration was established by the District of Columbia Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion to commemorate the birth date of President Abraham Lincoln.

As has been the custom for many years, the officers of the Commandery-in-Chief met on Saturday morning, February 11 for an executive committee meeting. Local MOLLUS companions and Dames joined other members from out of town for a fine lunch at the Channel Inn. The DOLLUS members held their own meeting following lunch and the companions adjourned for a general business meeting, which included national and local companions. These events were held at the Channel Inn located on the colorful waterfront of downtown Washington.

Some of the first-time participants at the Legion's business meeting were heard to remark that the meeting was very productive. A number found it hard to believe that so much was discussed, and decided, in such a short time. Credit must be given to thoughtful preparation and careful leadership for such outstanding results.

The DC Commandery's traditional formal banquet was held on Saturday evening at the Army and Navy Club. Members of the Joint Armed Services Color Guard presented our national colors at this featured event, which was an inspiring moment as always. Major General **Guy Swan**, Commanding General, Military District of Washington, and Mrs. Swan attended the dinner. The Honorable **Frank Williams**, Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, was the featured speaker of the evening. Judge Williams, a recognized Lincoln scholar, gave a most

interesting talk entitled, *Abraham Lincoln: Civil Liberties Then and Now*.

The traditional Lincoln Birthday Ceremony sponsored by the Lincoln Birthday National Commemorative Committee, was scheduled for Sunday, February 12, at noon, at the Lincoln Memorial. The National Park Service and the Military District of Washington decided to cancel this event because of a severe snowstorm that passed through the northeastern and central states including Washington, D. C. Wreaths from many of the participating societies, including the Loyal Legion and Dames, and the wreath of the President of the United States, were placed at the Memorial on Monday morning by Companions **Peter Dixon** and **Rick Bury**.

In spite of this unfortunate cancellation of the Ceremony, the traditional luncheon sponsored by the Lincoln Birthday National Commemorative Committee (LBNCC) was held at the Channel Inn with over 50 people at-

Loyal Legion Historical Journal tending. Ohio Commandery companion, **Thomas L. Vince**, gave an excellent talk on *Abraham Lincoln and John Brown*. One of the honored guests who attended the luncheon was **Raymond E. Epote**, Senior Minister Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Republic of Cameroon, represented the Diplomatic Corps. Even with the adverse weather, MOLLUS and the LBNCC maintained the tradition of honoring Abraham Lincoln as always since 1922 on his Birthday in our Nation's Capital.

A number of MOLLUS companions and guests took the opportunity to show the Legion's commitment to Lincoln's memory by attending a special Monday night performance with **Liam Neeson** and **Holly Hunter**. They appeared on stage as Abraham and Mary Lincoln, reading from letters and other documents in a theatrical performance written and narrated by **Harold Holzer**, renowned Lincoln scholar and Commission co-chairman.



Companions Peter Dixon and Rick Bury, Lincoln Memorial, Washington D.C.



l to r: PCinC Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Charles Corfman and Andy Johnson with James R Hanby, Sr, Commander, MD Department, SUVCW



Thomas L. Vince, Ohio Commandery Companion



Honorable Frank Williams, Chief Justice of the R.I. Supreme Court



Robin Lepard, Nicholas Ward, Blanche Curfman, Dr. David Curfman, and Joan Dixon.



Peter Dixon, Major General Guy Swan, John Moore, and PCinC Douglas Reed Niermeyer

*Annual Lincoln Birthday Events  
February 11-12, 2006  
More photographs of this event are posted on the MOLLUS website:  
<http://www.surcw.org/mollus/mollus.htm>  
Photographer: Kathleen Watson*

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