



# LOYAL LEGION HISTORICAL JOURNAL



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

VOL. 65, No. 2

SUMMER 2008

## The Indian Campaign of the Winter of 1864 to 1865 (Part II)

*[This article was written in 1877 and was read by Major General Grenville M. Dodge, Past Commander-in-Chief of MOLLUS to the Colorado Commandery of the MOLLUS at Denver, Colorado on April 21, 1907. It has been transcribed by Douglas Niermeyer, Past Commander-in-Chief, with the assistance of Rev. Barry Howard, Council-in-Chief Member.]*

### HEADQUARTERS, DISTRICT COLORADO

Denver, Colorado Territory, February 2, 1865.

"The Indians are bold in the extreme. They have burned every ranch between Julesburg and Valley Station, and nearly all the property at latter place; driven off all stock, both public and private. These Indians are led by white men, and have complete control of all the country outside my district, so that I am hemmed in.

The weather has been very severe here for nearly three weeks; the thermometer 30 degrees below zero, with quite a fall of snow on the ground. I have tried every means in my power to raise volunteers for three months' state service, but as yet have not succeeded, owing to the factional spirit existing in the community.

The Legislature took the matter in hand of my suggestion, appropriating so much money, Territorial bonds, to give the men a bounty and purchase horses to mount them on, as I have none, but the members cannot agree on the spoil, likely in their estimation to accrue from such a proceeding, so the bill has not yet passed. I addressed the speaker of the house yesterday, informing him that unless something was done within forty-eight hours I would be compelled, much against my will, to proclaim martial law and



Major General Grenville M. Dodge

stop all business, forcing every man to enter that ranks and open the line of communication. I have now a city organization of about 100 men organized into companies, so that in case of an attack here I would have something tangible to lay

hold of and make a fight. I have had a great deal of trouble in this matter, as there is no concert of action, every man suspecting his fellow of some chicanery.

Fort Lyon is being rapidly fortified, so that 200 men can defend it against 2,000 Indians. Militia companies are being organized all over the settled parts of the country (under penalty of being pressed into service) to defend the frontier settlements southward, and could I get but a regiment here now I could keep things in a running triangle until the arrival of sufficient force to make a campaign. The Indians are now determined to make it a war of extermination and nothing short of 5,000 men can make it extermination for them.

Major Wynkoop informed me from Fort Lyon that many warriors were on the headwaters of the Smoky Hill and intended attacking all the settlements as well as Denver. Provisions, owing to the transportation line being cut off, are at an exorbitant price, as well as labor and forage.

Cannot troops be sent out here immediately, or authority to raise companies, which could be easily done, for one year?

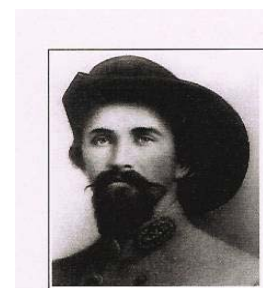
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## The Battle of Buffington Island

By Karl F. Schaeffer, 57th Commander-in-Chief

*[Commander-in-Chief Karl F. Schaeffer, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, made this presentation at the Battle of Buffington Island in Portland, Ohio on Saturday, July 19, 2008.]*

The Battle of Buffington Island, also known as the St. Georges Creek Skirmish, was an American Civil War engagement in Meigs County, Ohio, on July 19, 1863, during Morgan's Raid. It was the largest battle in Ohio during the war, Buffington Island contributed to the capture of the famed Confederate Cavalry raider, Brig. Gen. John Hunt Morgan, who was seeking to



General John Hunt Morgan, C.S. A.

escape Union army pursuers across the Ohio River at a ford opposite Buffington Island.

Delayed overnight, Morgan was almost surrounded by Federal cavalry the next day, and

the resulting battle ended in a Confederate rout, with over half of the 1,700-man Confederate force being captured. General Morgan and some 700 men escaped, but the daring raid finally ended on July 26 with his surrender after the Battle of Salineville. Morgan's Raid was of little military consequence, but it did spread terror among much of the population of southern and eastern Ohio, as well as neighboring Indiana.

### Background

Hoping to divert the attention of the Fed-

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## Commander-in-Chief's Message

As many of you know, a strong effort was made to have our United States President **George W. Bush** attend our Lincoln Memorial Birthday Ceremony in Washington, D.C. on February 12, 2008. However, he was unable to be there because of his heavy travel schedule. The 200th Anniversary of Lincoln's



Kathy Watson

Karl F. Schaeffer, Commander-in-Chief

birth will be celebrated next year on February 12. I sincerely hope that we will have a gigantic gathering of MOLLUS and DOLLUS members. Once again, an effort will be made to have the United States President attend this very special remembrance. If we create a large turnout, we will draw good coverage from the Washington newspapers and other sources. Come all ye faithful!

I have decided to dedicate the rest of my Commander-in-Chief message to Abraham Lincoln, who is the reason for our existence as The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. I hope that this brief story of his life will inspire our companions, associates and guests to come to Washington, D.C. for the bicentennial celebration of Lincoln's birthday on February 12, 2009.

### The Mystique of Our Sixteenth United States President, Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was not the sort of man who could lose himself in a crowd. After all, he stood six feet four inches tall, and to top it off, he wore a high silk hat. His height was mostly in his long bony legs. When he sat in a chair, he seemed no taller than anyone else. It was only when he stood up that he towered above other men.

At first glance, most people thought he was homely. Lincoln thought so too, referring once to his "poor, lean, lank face." He was sensitive about his gawky looks as a young man, but in time, he learned to laugh at himself. When a rival called him "two-faced" during a political debate, Lincoln replied: "I leave it to my audience. If I had another face, do you think I'd wear this one?"

Lincoln was a man of many faces according to those who knew him. In repose, he often seemed sad and gloomy, but when he began to speak, his expression changed. "The dull, listless features dropped like a mask," said a Chicago newspaperman. "The eyes began to sparkle, the mouth to smile, the whole countenance was wreathed in animation, so that a stranger would have



Kathy Watson

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*Layout and Production*

Printed by Cerrito Printing  
El Cerrito, California



LOYAL LEGION HISTORICAL

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

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**Publisher**Karl F. Schaeffer  
*Commander-in-Chief***Editor-in-Chief**

Marston Watson

**Assistant Editor**Kathleen Todd Watson  
*Layout and Production*Printed by Cerrito Printing  
El Cerrito, California**Welcome New Companions**

The following Companions have joined the Military Order of the Loyal Legion since the Spring 2008 issue of the Journal. Commander-in-Chief **Karl Schaeffer** extends congratulations and a warm welcome to each one.

**Waldron Kintzing Post II, Chancellor-in-Chief**

	Insignia No.	Commandery
<b>Hereditary Companions</b>		
Bruce Harry Emmons	22474	California
Thomas Livingston Tedeschi	22475	New York
James Fletcher Jaquess	22476	Virginia
Kenneth Duane Roach	22477	Connecticut
Bruce Turner Cunard, II	22478	Connecticut
John DeWitt Bowman	22479	New York
Nikolas James Passaris	22480	Ohio
Donald Leroy Hotchkiss, Jr.	22481	California
Stanley Dee Buckles	22482	Indiana

**Associate Companions**

(none for this period)

**Hereditary Membership Program**

Our Hereditary Membership Program is in effect each fiscal year, October 1 through September 30. Here are the rules that apply to this program. Recruit a minimum of three (3) new Hereditary Companions and you will be rewarded with a Lincoln MOLLUS Certificate of Appreciation for meritorious service and a Lincoln Membership Medal of Honor presented by our current Commander-in-Chief. These two prestigious awards will be presented to you at our annual National Congress, the Lincoln Memorial Ceremony in Washington, D.C. or at the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in Springfield, Illinois. If you are unable to attend one of these three major functions, arrangements may be made to mail the certificate and medal to your home. This program is the lifeblood of our historic Military Order and will ensure our noble existence for countless generations to come.

**Passing of Herbert Zearfoss***By Benjamin Frick, Past Commander-in-Chief*

Companions:

I regret to inform you of the death of our dear friend, Herbert Keyser Zearfoss. Herb served as the Commander of the Pennsylvania Commandery from 1999 to 2001, as Judge Advocate-in-Chief from 2001 to 2005, and was currently on the Council-in-Chief. Herb served as treasurer on the Board of Governors of the Civil War and Underground Railroad Museum. Apparently, Herb suffered a heart attack on April 8 while he was in Philadelphia for meetings at the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania (of which he was President), and of the Council of the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania (of which he was a Past Governor). Herb was very active in many hereditary societies, and gave tirelessly of his time and talents to bring in new members and advance the objects of these groups. We have lost a good friend and mentor, and he will be deeply missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, his wife Suzanne, and his sons and daughter, Timothy, Jonathan and Sarah.

*Indian Campaign from page 1*

The Santa Fe line has threatened to stop running on account of the Indians. Should such be the case, then all is cut off."

Respectfully your obedient servant,  
 THOMAS MOONLIGHT,  
 Colonel 11th Kansas Cavalry,  
 "Commanding.

**Col. Chinington's Answer**

Colonel Chinington, from Fort Rankin, reported:

"**Lieutenant Colonel Collins** with 200 men of the 11th Ohio, and Company D, 7th Iowa Cavalry, fought Indians from the 4th to the 9th inst., at Mud Springs. The Indians at one time charged our forces in the face of artillery and were nearly successful. Two thousand warriors were engaged in the fight. It is supposed forty Indians were killed. Beare's and Craighton's herds were driven off. The Indians crossed at Bush creek, going north. The telegraph poles were gone and wires so inextricably tangled as to be useless. Seven hundred lodges crossed Pole creek, six miles below Pole creek crossing."

These Indians were not driven off and the telegraph lines retaken without severe fighting and loss of many soldiers. Within two weeks the troops drove these Indians north, where a detachment of troops from Fort Laramie attacked them and drove them across the Platte. Finally the Indians saw that a different warfare was being made against them, and they fled to their villages on the Powder river and in the Black Hills country.

There was such energy and such spirit displayed by the troops, that after two weeks' work they had the telegraph lines replaced between Omaha and Denver, a distance of 600 miles, and this without any additional force to aid them.

The progress made in putting up the wires is shown by this report:

"My troop is at Moore's ranch, passed there at two o'clock. We ran twelve miles of wire and set eight miles of poles, had two severe fights, and marched 55 miles in 52 hours. Operators furnished valuable service."

**E. B. Murphy**, Captain 7th Iowa Cavalry

The thermometers all this time were from five to ten degrees below zero. On February 13th telegraphic communication was resumed through to California, and Mr. Craighen notified the government of the fact.

An inquiry made of Craighen by General Grant, as to where I was located (Craighen,

being a personal friend of mine, who was most skeptical at the start of my accomplishing anything with the material I had, was overjoyed at our success), was answered: "Nobody knows where he is, but everybody knows where he has been."

From the 5th to the 13th of February every mounted man on that line was in the saddle, either assisting the operators of chasing real or imaginary Indians. The moment a scout came in, instructions were given to the officers to send them out and not allow any mounted troops in the stockade until the lines were open and the Indians driven at least 100 miles away from the telegraph, and the only dashes of Indians made after we got fairly at them was cut off a part of an unguarded train, and at unguarded ranches, and at those stage stations where only a few soldiers were located, but in every attack the soldiers stood their ground and fought, and when driven only backed far enough to get a secure place. The troops knew better than to go back to the fortified posts, as they had instructions to keep to the hills, but in nearly every case they were successful, and the daring that some of the troops showed in these fights was remarkable.

**Indian Attacks**

Great atrocities were committed by the Indians, scalping the men alive and abusing the women. This caused the troops to stand and fight, preferring to die than to fall into their hands. Wherever a fight was successfully made, no matter whether commissioned or non-commissioned officers commanded, I telegraphed him in person thanking him, and to the commanding officer of his regiment, requesting that he be given the first promotion, and wrote to the governor of his State.

As soon as this stage line was opened we concentrated about five hundred mounted men, intending to catch the Indians before they left the North Platte, but the Indians fled as soon as they heard of this, and did not stop until they reached Powder river, too far north for us to follow until arrangements were made for supplies for troops and stock, as everything had to be teamed from Fort Leavenworth.

The storms during March were very severe. Snow lay two feet on the level and was crusted so hard that for weeks it was almost impossible to force animals through it. As soon as we heard from my scouts of the departure of the Indians and found they had no intention of molesting the citizens of Nebraska, and had placed

themselves on Powder river too far north to return until the grass in May, I distributed the troops along the stage and telegraph lines to Salt Lake, and returned to open the South route to New Mexico.

My experience on the North route, with the reports from the troops and from my Indians, soon satisfied me that every Indian tribe of any importance, from the British possessions in the north to the Red river in the south, were preparing to engage in open hostilities. These tribes often pretended to be friendly, deceiving the government and the Indian agent, a crafty trick that was impossible to make the government understand. For instance, they would go to the Indian agent for provisions, and would make him believe that they were at peace, and would promise to bring to the agency their tribe. Probably by the time the report of the Indian agent reached the government, this same tribe would be off on the warpath and have captured a train or murdered some settlers, and the troops in return had attacked and destroyed them, and we were called to account for it, as it was claimed by the agents we were attacking peaceable Indians. This went so far that it prevented me from opening the southern emigrant trail several weeks. Finally I took the matter in my own hands, regardless of the action or report of the agents.

While these parleys were going on the Indians suddenly appeared all along the southern emigrant trail in the Arkansas river valley, attacking the bands of Southern Arapahoes, Cheyennes, Comanches, and Kiowas that were in the vicinity of the trail. The troops had caught on to the severe fighting on the Platte, had heard of the new methods of warfare and victories, and they in all cases stood their ground and defeated the Indians, although they suffered severely in some instances. This was a reception that the Indians did not expect and they fled to the Wichita mountains, suing for peace, which I knew was simply to prevent us attacking them there, but accomplished its purpose with the government and finally brought about the treaties that were not worth the paper they were written on, and later on forced campaigns that Sheridan afterwards made, while if we had been allowed to have followed them up and punish them as we did the northern tribes, we would have conquered a peace that would have been a lasting one.

**Indian Strategies**

The Indians of the plains are the best

skirmishers in the world. In rapidity of movements, in perfect horsemanship, sudden whirling, protecting the body by clinging to the side of the horse, and rapid movements in open and difficult ground, no trained cavalry in the world can equal them. On foot their ability to hide behind any obstruction, in ravines, along creeks, and under creek and river banks, and in fighting in the open plains or level ground, the faculty to disappear is beyond one's belief except he has experienced it. In skulking and sharp shooting they are adepts, but troops properly instructed are a match for them on foot and never fail to drive and rout them, if they will stand and fight and never retreat except slowly with their faces to them. I have seen several times when caught in a tight place, bands of Indians held by a few men by holding to ridges and slowly retreating, always using our rifles at every opportunity when an Indian was in range, never wasting a shot on them unless there was a probability of hitting them. The Indians have a mortal fear of such tactics.

In a fight the Indians will select the positions and pick out quickly any vantage ground, and some times as high as 200 will concentrate at such a point where we could not concentrate 20 men without exposing them, and from this vantage ground they will pour a deadly fire on the troops, and we cannot see an Indian, only puffs of smoke. By such tactics as this they harass and defeat our troops. Many a fight occurred between Indians and soldiers both watching the smoke to show the other's position. You can watch this kind of fight and never see a person unless some one is hit and exposes himself, when it is nearly always a sure death. The Indian character is such that he will not stand continual following, pounding and attacking. Their life and methods are not accustomed to it, and the Indians can be driven by very inferior forces by continually watching, attacking, and following. None of our campaigns have been successful that have not been prepared to follow the Indians day and night, attacking them at every opportunity until they are worn out, disbanded or forced to surrender, which is the sure result of such a campaign.

The Indians during the months they had been hostile, and especially in their attacks on the stage stations and ranches, had captured a large number of men, women, and children. These prisoners had made known to the troops, by dropping notes along

the trail and through the reports of friendly Indians, their terrible condition and the usage that was being made of them. Their appears to us to rescue them were pitiful.

### “Long Eye”

I knew the prisoners would be sent far north to the villages, and their winter quarters out of our reach; that these villages were unprotected because every brave and dog-soldier had his war paint on and was joining the hostile forces attacking along our lines, which were increasing every day. I also knew it would be impossible for any or our troops to reach them or rescue them by following them, and as soon as I arrived at Fort Kearney I asked authority of the government to enlist and muster into service two companies of Pawnee Indians, to be under the command of their old interpreter, **Major North**, who I knew to be a brave, level-headed leader. This authority was immediately given to me, and Major North was given confidential instructions to proceed to the Sioux country, apparently on scout duty, but to watch his opportunity and rescue these prisoners, while their braves were down fighting us. He started, but storms of snow came down so heavy that his ponies could get nothing to eat, and during the latter part of February and all of March these storms were continuous, the snow falling to the depth of two feet over the entire plains. Major North was compelled to seek shelter in the river bottoms, and browsed his stock on cottonwood limbs to save them. In the campaign of the summer and winter of 1865 and 1866 Major North, with his two enlisted companies, to which I added two more, made some wonderful marches, scouts, battles, and captures, and during that campaign we recaptured and had surrendered to us many of these women and children prisoners.

After the war Major North became manager of the Indians in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, and died in that service. He was a noted man on the plains. My acquaintance with him commenced in 1856, and together we had seen and endured many hardships. It was seldom one met his equal in any of the different phases of plains life. Although he had lead an eventful career, still I never heard him refer to what he had done or accomplished, or the part he had taken in battles, and probably no man was ever more worshiped than he was by the two tribes of Pawnee Indians, and his death was virtually their destruction, for during his life among them he held them under good discipline and

kept them away from vice, disease, and war.

A great many amusing reports came to me from my scouts and the captured Indians. When on the plains in the 1850's I was known among the Indians by the name, in their language, that signified “Long Eye,” “Sharp Eye,” and “Hawk Eye.” This came from the fact that when I first went among them it was as an engineer making surveys through their country. With my engineering instruments I could set a head flag two or three miles away, even further than an Indian could see, and it is their custom to give a practical name to everything. Of course I was not many days on the plains until it reached the Indians that “Long Eye was there, and in every fight that occurred they had me present. They said I could shoot as far as I could see. The scouts said the Indian chiefs laid their defeats to this fact. Then again they were very superstitious about my power in other matters. When the overland telegraph was built they were taught to respect it and not destroy it. They were made to believe that it was great Medicine. This was done after the line was opened to Fort Laramie by stationing several of their most intelligent chiefs at Fort Laramie and others at Fort Kearney, the two posts being three hundred miles apart, and then having them talk to each other over the wire and note the time sent and received. Then we had them mount their fleetest horses and ride as fast as they could until they met at Old Jules' ranch, at the mouth of Lodgepole, this being about half way between Kearney and Laramie. Of course this was astonishing and mysterious to the Indians. Thereafter you could often see Indians with their heads against the telegraph poles, listening to the peculiar sounds the wind makes as it runs along the wires and through the insulators. It is a sougling, singing sound. They thought and said it was “Big Medicine” talking.

I never could convince them that I could not go to the telegraph poles the same as they did and tell them what it said, or send a message for them to some chief far away, as they had often seen me use my traveling instrument and cut into the line, sending and receiving messages. Then again, most of the noted scouts of the plains who had married into the different tribes had been guides for me, and many of these men were half-breeds, and were with these hostile Indians. Some of them took part with them, but more of them had tried to pacify and bring them to terms,

*continued on page 7, column 2*

## COMMANDERY NEWS

### Connecticut Commandery

By Companion Harold Colvocresses

Continuing a long-standing Memorial Day tradition, members of the Connecticut Commandery placed flags on the graves of Civil War veterans in Hartford's Cedar Hill Cemetery. The grave of **General Griffin A. Stedman** is one of the highlights of Cedar Hill Cemetery.



Harold Colvocresses

l. to r. Past Commander-in-Chief Robert G. Carroon, Companion Donald Reid and Treasurer-in-Chief Lee Allan Tryon are seen at the grave of General Griffin A. Stedman.

General Stedman was born in Hartford on January 6, 1838 to a prominent Hartford family. He was commissioned a captain in 1861 with Company I, 5th Connecticut Volunteers. He participated in the withdrawal from Ball's Bluff and was promoted rapidly. Stedman participated in the Battle of Antietam with the rank of lieutenant-colonel where he was severely wounded. He was promoted to the rank of colonel by September 1862 and was commanding at the Battle of Fredericksburg. Stedman participated later in the Battles of Drury's Bluff and Cold Harbor. He was mortally wounded at Petersburg but received his promotion to brigadier general as his life was slipping away. He died August 6, 1864 at age 26.

In addition to his prominent grave, General Stedman is remembered by the Griffin A. Stedman Monument, located in Hartford's Barry Square. This monument was dedicated October 4, 1900.



### Michigan Commandery

By Bruce Butgereit, Commander

The Michigan Commandery was active once again in doing the work of the Order. Companion **W. Fred Roberts**, Senior Vice Commander, proudly participated in the annual presentation of the merit awards. Five ROTC medals were presented in 2008: one at Eastern Michigan University, two at the University of Michigan and two at Michigan State University.



Bruce Butgereit

Companion W. Fred Roberts, Senior Vice Commander (r) presents ROTC medal at Eastern Michigan University.

Also, the Commandery gathered at a special dedication ceremony on May 17 at the Oakhill Cemetery in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This ceremony was conducted jointly by the Michigan Commandery and the General John A. Logan Camp No. 1, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. They were involved in dedicating fourteen new headstones for soldiers that were buried previously under a marker titled "Unknown" or "U.S. Soldier." In addition, eight other headstones were rededicated as replacement markers, as well as a cast iron memorial urn. The first burial of **Joseph Proper**, 3rd Michigan Infantry, Company K, took place on May 8, 1861. A total of sixty-six soldiers were buried there over a period of time. All but two of them never saw action, as they had died in local training camps and hospitals. The wooden headboards that had marked their graves were rotted by 1868, with no one to care for their plots. The identities of the men buried there had become lost to time...or so some thought.

Part of our ceremony included the rededication of a cast iron memorial urn. First mentioned by the Watson GAR Post records, this memorial urn was dedicated in 1898 and over time, became weathered



Bruce Butgereit

and abused by time which had caused portions to deteriorate and break off. Thru the financial contributions of the Michigan Commandery (\$300), Gen. John A. Logan Camp 1, SUVCW (\$500), **Wenda Fore**, descendant of Watson Post member **Peter Simmons** (buried a few feet from the urn) (\$100), and **Bruce and Marcia Butgereit** (\$250) we were able to obtain a new urn.

Dame Marcia Butgereit wrote the following poem, in remembrance of all who gave their lives while serving in this Nation's Armed Forces, which she read during the ceremony on May 17.

#### 'Neath the Shadow of the Urn

'Neath the shadow of the Urn  
Our forefathers lie.  
Filled with flower and of fern,  
We need not ask why.  
For as sentinel she'll stand,  
O'er the men who did die,  
Men of the Army called Grand,  
Who rest safely nearby.  
Still watching over the grave,  
No matter the sky,  
Lest we forget those so brave  
For whom the flags fly.

### Ohio Commandery

By Gordon R. Bury, Past Commander-in-Chief and Recorder

The Ohio Commandery held its 2008 Spring meeting on May 17 at the Ohio Veterans home in Sandusky, Ohio. The meeting began at 11:30 a.m. at the Museum followed by a noon lunch at the home. Guest speaker **Peter J. D'Onofrio, Ph.D.**, President of the Society of Civil War Surgeons, Inc., gave his presentation on medical aspects during the Civil War in the Great Room at the center. The Ohio Commandery returned to the Museum at 2:30 p.m. for its formal Spring Meeting.

*continued on page 8, column 3*



## Commodore John Guest, U.S.N.

by Kathy Watson, DOLLUS

**J**ohn Guest (7 March 1822 – 11 January 1879) was a Commodore of the United States Navy, whose active-duty career lasted from the late 1830s through the Civil War, and MOLLUS member from Pennsylvania (#00183). At the time of his death he was commandant of the Portsmouth, New Hampshire navy yard.

This portrait of Commodore Guest hangs in the Army Navy Club where MOLLUS holds an annual banquet in honor of Abraham Lincoln.



Kathy Watson

Commodore John Guest, U.S.N. (Portrait artist is S. Jerome Uhl (1842-1916))

Guest was born in Missouri son of **Jonathan Guest** and **Mary (Stoughton) Hite**. He entered the naval service as a midshipman, Dec. 16, 1837, and after nearly six years of service in that capacity was promoted to the rank of Passed Midshipman on June 29, 1843. In 1844 and 1845 he was engaged on the steamer *Poinsett* in the survey of Tampa Bay. During the Mexican war he was attached to the frigate *Congress*, and took part in the battles of San Gabriel and Mesa. On Dec. 24, 1850, Guest was commissioned as a Lieutenant, and assigned to duty with the Japan expedition under Commodore Perry, during which the first landing by Americans was made in that country. From 1851 to 1855 he was with the East India Squadron, and did heroic service in several sharp fights with the Chinese at Shanghai.

He was assigned to special duty in Washington in 1855, and in 1857-8 was attached to the *Niagara*, while that vessel was engaged in laying the first Atlantic cable. In 1861 he was placed in command of the *Niagara*, and subsequently of the *Owasco*, and was engaged at Forts Jackson and St.

### *Indian Campaign from page 5*

and they gave me information about those who were not engaged in the depredations.

I was supposed to be, by the Indians of the plains, a person of great power and great moment. These half-breeds worked upon their superstitions, endeavoring to convince them it was useless to fight "Long Eye." No doubt my appearing on the plains the time I did, and the fact that from the time I appeared until the time I left, the troops had nothing but success, carried great weight with them, and seemed to confirm what the old voyageurs and guides told them, and had much influence in causing their abandonment of the Platte country and returning to their villages.

My own experience on the plains led me to be just as watchful and just as vigilant when I knew the Indians were not near me as I was when they were in sight. In all my travels I never allowed them to camp near or occupy my camps, even in the time of peace, when we were friendly, and I never allowed myself to knowingly do them an injustice, and made it a point never to lie to them in any of my councils and treaties, or never allow, if I knew it, the interpreter to deceive them. That brought me respect in all my dealings with them, and I treated them respect, courtesy and consideration, and demanded the same from them. This, no doubt was one of the principal reasons that in fifteen years, more or less, intercourse with them, traveling through their country both during the times they were hostile and at peace, that I escaped many of the misfortunes that befell others.

Although this short campaign was not remarkable for great battles or large loss by killed and wounded, still it required great fortitude from the troops, and often great personal courage, and its success was of great moment to the government and to the people of the plains and the Pacific coast, for over these three great overland routes

Philip, and at the capture of New Orleans in 1862. He also took an active part in the battles on the Mississippi in the same year, up to and including Vicksburg. He was made Commander July 16, 1862, and still in command of the *Owasco*, a wooden hulled screw gunboat, assisted at the capture of the Galveston forts. He was transferred to the iron-clad *Sangamon* in 1863, which was the first vessel fitted with a spar torpedo. In 1863-4 he was engaged in convoy duty in the West Indies, and was subsequently in

were carried the mails, telegrams, and traffic during the entire war of the Rebellion, which did much to hold the people loyal to our government. A long stoppage was destruction to business, and would bring starvation and untold misery; and when, with only thirteen days and nights of untiring energy on the part of the troops in a winter of unheard of severity, California, Utah, and Colorado were put in communication with the rest of the world and there was great rejoicing. In seventeen days the stages were started and overland travel was again safe, after being interrupted for two months, and by March 1st the commercial trains were all en route to their destinations and I had returned to my duties at the headquarters of the Department in St. Louis.

It was with no little satisfaction that I answered a personal letter General Grant had written me, when he assigned me to this duty, and which I found awaiting me at Fort Leavenworth. In his letter he outlined what it was necessary to do and why he had asked me to take the field. He judged rightly of the condition of affairs and the necessity of immediate action. I wrote him how promptly the troops responded to my call. They had opened the overland routes; they had made them secure and were then guarding them, and they would be kept open. But after grass came, unless these hostile Indians were thoroughly chastised, they would certainly and successfully attack them and prevent safe travel overland, and from the extensive campaign of the next summer and winter that followed these Indians to the Yellowstone on the north and the Cimarron on the south, and conquered a peace with every hostile tribe.

Source: The Indian Campaign of the Winter of 1864 to 1865, Written in 1877, Read to the Colorado Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States at Denver, April 21, 1907, by Major General Grenville M. Dodge, published by the Colorado Commandery of MOLLUS, c1907, 21 pages.

command of the steamer *Iosco*, which was engaged in the two attacks on Fort Fisher. On July 25, 1866, after 29 years of nearly continuous service, Commander Guest was promoted to the rank of Captain, and on Dec. 12, 1872, was made Commodore.

Sources: Wikipedia Encyclopedia, NY Times Obituary (January 12, 1879) and Union Blue



*Lincoln Mystique from page 2*

said, "Why this man, so angular and solemn a moment ago, is really handsome!"

Lincoln was the most photographed man of his time, but his friends insisted that no photograph ever did him justice. It is no wonder. Back then, cameras required long exposures. The person being photographed had to "freeze" as the seconds ticked by. If he blinked an eye, the picture would be blurred. That's why Lincoln looks so stiff and formal in his photos. We never see him laughing or joking. Artists and writers tried to capture the "real" Lincoln that the camera missed, but something about the man always escaped them. His changeable features, his tones, gestures, and expressions, seemed to defy description.

It is hard to imagine today the Lincoln as he really was. He never cared to reveal much about himself. He was witty and talkative in company, but he rarely betrayed his inner feelings. Lincoln was "the most secretive-reticent-shut-mouthed man that ever lived" according to **William Herndon**, his law partner.

In his own time, Lincoln was never fully understood even by his closest friends. Since then, his life story has been told and retold so many times that he has become as much a legend as a flesh-and-blood human being. While the legend is based on truth, it is only partly true. And it hides the man behind it like a disguise.

The legendary Lincoln is known as Honest Abe, a humble man of the people who rose from a log cabin to the White House. There is no doubt that Lincoln was a poor boy who made good. It is true that he carried his folksy manners and homespun speech to the White House with him. He said "howdy" to visitors and invited them to "stay a spell." He greeted diplomats while wearing carpet slippers, called his wife "mother" at receptions, and told bawdy jokes at cabinet meetings.

Lincoln may have seemed like a common man, but he was not. His friends agreed that he was one the most ambitious people they had ever known. Lincoln struggled hard to rise above his log cabin origins, and he was proud of his achievements. By the time he ran for president he was a wealthy man, earning a large income from his law practice and his many investments. As for the nickname Abe, he hated it. No one who knew him well ever called him Abe to his face. They

addressed him as Lincoln or Mr. Lincoln.

Lincoln is often described as a sloppy dresser, careless about his appearance. In fact, he patronized the best tailor in Springfield, Illinois, buying two suits a year. That was at a time when many men lived, died, and were buried in the same suit.

It is true that Lincoln had little formal "edification," as he would have pronounced it. Almost everything he "larned" he taught himself. All his life, he would say "that" for there, "git" for get and "kin" for can. Even so, he became an eloquent public speaker who could hold a vast audience spellbound, and a great writer whose finest phrases still ring in our ears. He was known to sit up late into the night, discussing Shakespeare's plays with White House visitors.

Lincoln was certainly a humorous man, famous for his rollicking stories. But he was also moody and melancholy, tormented by the long and frequent bouts of depression. Humor was his therapy. He relied on his yarns, a friend observed, to "whistle down sadness." Lincoln had a cool, logical mind, trained in the courtroom, and a practical, commonsense approach to problems. Yet he was deeply superstitious, a believer in dreams, omens and visions.

We admire Lincoln today as an American folk hero. During the Civil War, however, he was the most unpopular president the nation had ever known. His critics called him a tyrant, a hick, a stupid baboon who was unfit for his office. As Commander in Chief of the armed forces, he was denounced as a bungling amateur who meddled in military affairs he knew nothing about. But he also had his supporters. They praised him as a farsighted statesman, a military mastermind who engineered the Union victory.

Abraham Lincoln is best known as the Great Emancipator, the man who freed the slaves. Yet he did not enter the war with that idea in mind. "My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union," he said in 1862, "and is not either to save or destroy slavery." As the war continued, Lincoln's attitude changed. Eventually he came to regard the conflict as a moral crusade to wipe out the sin of slavery.

No black leader was more critical of Lincoln than the fiery abolitionist writer and editor **Frederick Douglass**. Douglass had grown up as a slave. He had won his freedom by escaping to the North. Early in the war, impatient with Lincoln's cautious leadership, Douglass called him "premi-

nently the white man's president, entirely devoted to the welfare of white men." Later, Douglass changed his mind and came to admire Lincoln. Several years after the war, he said this about the sixteenth president: "His greatest mission was to accomplish two things: first, to save his country from dismemberment and ruin, and, second to free his country from the great crime of slavery ... taking him for all in all, measuring the tremendous magnitude of the work before him, considering the necessary means to ends, and surveying the end from the beginning, infinite wisdom has seldom sent any man into the world better fitted for this mission than Abraham Lincoln."

Loyally yours,

Karl F. Schaeffer

57th Commander-in-Chief

*Commandery News from page 6*

## Virginia Commandery

By Jeffrey C. Burden, Recorder

The Commandery awarded MOLLUS Medals of Merit to four Army ROTC cadets in April. Commander **John Kent Kane** presented medals and certificates on April 23 to cadets **William Spencer** (College of William & Mary) and **David Hahl** (Christopher Newport University), in a ceremony at Christopher Newport University. Cadets from the two schools make up the "Revolutionary Guards Battalion." Cadets **Lauren N. Perry** and **Justin P. Sandy** of the "Spider Battalion" also received recognition for leadership



Cadet Justin P. Sandy of the "Spider Battalion" received the ROTC Medal of Merit at the University of Richmond on 22 April.

and academic potential on April 22 at the University of Richmond. The Commandery is hoping to expand its participation with ROTC programs in North Carolina next year.

The Virginia Commandery participated in

*continued on page 10*

*Battle of Buffington Island from page 1*

eral Army of the Ohio from Southern forces in Tennessee, Brig. Gen. John Hunt Morgan and 2,460 handpicked Confederate cavalrymen, along with a battery of horse artillery, rode west from Sparta, Tennessee, on June 11, 1863. When a second Federal army (the Army of the Cumberland) began its Tullahoma Campaign twelve days later, Morgan decided it was time to move northward. His column marched into Kentucky, fighting a series of minor battles, before commanding two steamships to ferry them across the Ohio River into Indiana, where, at the Battle of Corydon, Morgan routed the local militia. With his path now relatively clear, Morgan headed eastward on July 13 past Cincinnati and rode across southern Ohio, stealing horses and supplies along the way.

The Union response was not long in coming, as Maj. Gen. **Ambrose Burnside**, commanding the Department of the Ohio, ordered out all available troops, as well as sending several Union Navy gunboats steaming up the Ohio River to contest any Confederate attempt to reach Kentucky or West Virginia and safety. Brig. Gen. **Edward H. Hobson** led several columns of Federal cavalry in pursuit of Morgan's raiders, which by now had been reduced to some 1,700 men. Ohio Governor **David Tod** called out the local militia, and volunteers formed companies to protect towns and river crossings throughout the region.

On July 18, Morgan, having split his column earlier, led his reunited force towards Pomeroy, Ohio, a quiet river town near the Eight Mile Island Ford, where Morgan intended to cross into West Virginia. Running a gauntlet of small arms fire, Morgan's men were denied access to the river and to Pomeroy itself, and he headed towards the next ford upstream at Buffington Island, some 20 miles to the southeast.

Arriving near Buffington Island and the nearby tiny hamlet of Portland, Ohio, towards evening on July 18, Morgan found that the ford was blocked by several hundred local militia ensconced behind hastily thrown up earthworks. Morgan decided to camp for the night to allow his jaded men and horses to rest, as dense fog and darkness settled in. He was concerned that even if he pushed aside the enemy

troops, he might lose additional men in the darkness as they tried to navigate the narrow ford. The delay proved to be a fatal mistake.

### Fitch's Fleet

The US Navy's Mississippi Squadron was involved in the Battle of Buffington Island. Morgan had brought field cannons with his column. A heavy river blockade was realized early in the chase while Morgan's column traveled easterly towards Cincinnati, Ohio. Lt Commander **Leroy Fitch's** fleet included tinclads and ironclad ships (*Brilliant, Fairplay, Moose, Reindeer, St. Clair, Silver Lake, Springfield, Victory, Naumkeag and Queen City*). A few of these steamers lagged behind to zone-up protecting against a possible doubling back of Morgan's column. The forward vessels were each assigned a patrol zone along the Mason, Jackson and Wood counties of West Virginia by Fitch's instruction. The *USS Naumkeag* patrolled from Point Pleasant, West Virginia to Eight Mile Island zone and *USS Springfield* guarded from Pomeroy, Ohio towards Letart Islands. The cannon balls from the *USS Victory* have been found along Leading Creek, Ohio, its patrol from Middleport, Ohio to Eight Mile Island along the West Virginia river bank. The *USS Magnolia, Imperial, Alleghany Belle and Union* tinclads and armed packets which were privateers along with others documented under Parkersburg Logistics' command. The Army's "amphibious division" officer, Major General Ambrose E. Burnside at his Cincinnati headquarters, provided intelligence of Morgan's march and turned his flagship, *USS Alleghany Belle*, over to Fitch before the battle. The "amphibious division" tinclads had four to six large jonboats (sideboats) used to fire rifles from, for landing to give chase and pickup prisoners.



Brig. Gen. Edward Hobson, U.S.A.

Fitch's flagship was the ironclad *USS Moose*, USN.<sup>1</sup> The *Moose* and Fitch's dispatch privateer *Imperial* were tied up within earshot of the island the night before the battle. It has been written that Fitch had the boilers fired up and shooting its large cannons at the island on first rifle fire, slightly out of range before steam could make way. The *USS Allegheny Belle* was a little farther down tied up along the Ohio side. Having heard

*Moose's* cannons, it made steam and soon brought up Burnside's amphibious infantry.

The 9th West Virginia Infantry were delivered by packets working under Fort Union (Ft. Blair) to the high banked, tree lined crossings along the West Virginia shores. These were commanded by Gen. **I. H. Duval** under Federal Command at Wheeling, West Virginia. "The regiment was composed largely of refugees, who, having been driven from home, were fighting with a desperation that was not excelled by any troops in any army."<sup>2</sup> The river provided further impediment to the Confederate Cavalry during these skirmishes. It is unknown, save educated guess, how many horses and Confederate Cavalry Troopers drowned while facing West Virginia stationed sentry in several locations down shore stemming from the main battle. Some individuals did make the crossing without horse by foot evasion and were aided back south to home by sympathizers despite some of Col. **RBJP Smith's** 106th militia of Jackson and Mason counties Cavalry patrols behind the sentry line. This crossing was near Ravenswood, West Virginia. That sentry squad was provided a worn out cannon of which several earlier authors have anecdote. The "amphibious division" assaulted any Confederate squad found near the shores and pulled prisoners from the river.

Continuing upstream after the main battle broke into unit maneuver and skirmishes, *USS Moose* fired on a Confederate Artillery column trying to cross the river. Fitch dispatched "Imperial" to recover Confederate field artillery left behind there. All along the river, spotty ironclad and field cannon fire with clusters of rifle fire was heard shooting at Morgan's scouts looking for another possible ford. The local support vessels were busy hauling ammunition, rations and prisoners. Belpre, Ohio had a supply receiving dockage and depot. There were no railway bridges across the Ohio River at this time. The western states got their supplies from the east's rail depot and packet docks at the Union's Parkersburg Supply Center. Belpre and Parkersburg was also a huge Union embarkation center.

The information collated and compiled from the official records of the War Department includes the following data regarding Morgan's raid into Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio.

Union Army: 22 killed, 80 wound-

*continued on page 10*

*Battle of Buffington Island from page 9*

ed and 790 missing or captured.

Confederate Army: 86 killed, 385 wounded and 3,000 missing or captured.

Lt.-Commander LeRoy Fitch's report to Acting Rear-Admiral **David D. Porter**, Commanding Mississippi Squadron states in part that "Many places he has been in large bends in the river, where by marching 4 or 5 miles he could have struck several fords, which, by water, would perhaps be 15 or 20 miles apart. All these fords in the rear, ahead, and intermediate had to be guarded."

**Battle**

On the foggy morning of July 19, two Federal brigades under **August Kautz** and **Henry M. Judah** finally caught up with Morgan and attacked his position on the broad flood plain just north of Portland, nearly encircling the Confederates as another column under **James M. Shackelford** arrived on the scene. In the spirited early fighting, Maj. **Daniel McCook**, the 65-year-old patriarch of the famed Fighting McCooks, was mortally wounded. Nearly 3,000 Federals were soon engaged with Morgan's outnumbered and exhausted men. In addition, two Union gunboats, the *USS. Moose* and the *USS Allegheny Belle*, steamed into the narrow channel separating Buffington Island from the flood plain and opened fire on Morgan's men, spraying them with shell fragments. Soon they were joined by a third gunboat.

Morgan, his way to the Buffington Island ford now totally blocked, left behind a small rear guard and tried to fight his way northward along the flood plain, hoping to reach yet another ford. It proved to be an exercise in futility, as Morgan's force was split apart by the converging Federal columns and 52 Confederates were killed, with well over one hundred badly wounded in the swirling fighting. Morgan and about 700 men escaped encirclement by following a narrow path through the woods. However, his brother-in-law and second-in-command, Col. **Basil W. Duke**, was captured, as were over 750 of Morgan's cavalymen including his younger brother John Morgan.

Morgan's beleaguered troops soon headed upstream for the unguarded ford opposite Belleville, West Virginia, where over 300 men successfully crossed the Ohio River to avoid capture, most notably Col. **Adam "Stovepipe" Johnson** and famed telegrapher **George Ellsworth**. General Morgan, who was halfway across the ford,

noted with dismay that his remaining men were trapped on the Ohio side as the Federal gunboats suddenly loomed into view. He wheeled his horse mid channel and re-joined what was left of his column on the



**Brig. Gen. Henry M. Judah, U.S.A.**

Ohio riverbank. Over the next few days, they failed to find a secure place to cross the river, and Morgan's remaining force was captured on June 26 in northern Ohio following the Battle of Salineville.

Many of those captured at Buffington Island were taken via steamboat to Cincinnati as prisoners of war, including most of the wounded. Morgan and most of his officers were confined to the Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus, Ohio. Morgan, **Thomas Hines** and a few others would later execute a daring escape and finally return safely to Kentucky.

**Footnotes**

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*Commandery News from page 8*

Richmond NBP Superintendent David Ruth and Jr. Vice C-in-C Jeffrey Burden stand at the grave of Medal of Honor recipient George Buchanan of the 148th New York Infantry, following a ceremony at Fort Harrison National Cemetery on 26 May.

the Memorial Day services at Fort Harrison National Cemetery program by presenting a wreath. Fort Harrison, southeast of Richmond, was the site of bitter fighting in September and October 1864. The annual program, which typically draws more than fifty veterans and others, is organized by the National Park Service's Richmond National Battlefield Park unit. The Richmond unit just welcomed a new superintendent, **David Ruth**, who had served several years as assistant superintendent. He stated that he looks forward to working with the Virginia Commandery as the Civil war Sesquicentennial approaches.

Members of the Commandery gathered on May 28 for fellowship, to discuss new projects, and hear the status of ongoing ones. The Commandery membership stands at seventy-five companions and associates as of June 1.

*It is not merely for today, but for all time to come that we should perpetuate for our children's children this great and free government, which we have enjoyed all our lives.*

*Abraham Lincoln*

## Pennsylvania Commandery Plans 122nd Congress

By Joe Coleman, Senior Vice Commander

Philadelphia is the first stop to Gettysburg for the 122nd MOLLUS Congress. Former Commander-in-Chief, **Benjamin Frick** (2005-2007), has made special arrangements for your stay at the Union League of Philadelphia on Friday night, October 17. The Pennsylvania Commandery is planning a reception for Friday afternoon at the Civil War and Underground Railroad Library and Museum. It will be the last time that MOLLUS can use the 1805 Pine Street location until the museum is open again after it is relocated to the new site at Independence Mall (Old First Bank). This move should occur prior to the 2011 Congress in Philadelphia.

The 122nd Congress will reconvene at the Gettysburg Wyndham (a new hotel just on the outskirts of town) on Saturday morning. Lunch is planned for the Dobbins House followed by an afternoon at the soon-to-be-opened visitor center. Dr. John Latchar, honorary national member of MOLLUS and the Gettysburg Nation Military Park Superintendent, will be the keynote speaker at the Saturday night banquet. The Wyndham Hotel rate for single or double is \$134.00 a night, plus applicable taxes and incidental room charges.

## The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States 122nd National Congress: 17-19 October 2008

### Event Announcement and Reservation Form

MOLLUS/DOLLUS Congress Registration Fee (\$55/person) No. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Required for all Companion, Dames and Guests

Please indicate which MOLLUS functions you plan to attend:

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6:00 p.m. - MOLLUS Cocktail Reception (cash bar) No. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_N/C\_\_\_  
Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel

#### Saturday 18 October – (Breakfast on your own)

12:00 a.m. – MOLLUS Luncheon (\$14/person) No. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Dobbins House Tavern

6:00 p.m. – MOLLUS Reception & Banquet (\$65.00/person) No. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Sunday 19 October – (Breakfast on your own)

Make check payable to “MOLLUS PA” and send with this form to:  
Joe Coleman, 85 Beddington Lane, Strasburg PA 17579

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Commandery/Society: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional names: \_\_\_\_\_

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The Wyndham Hotel in Gettysburg, headquarters hotel for the Congress and Symposium, has reserved a block of rooms for MOLLUS/DOLLUS members. The room rate is \$134/night plus tax. Call 1-877-999-3223 **before September 17** and identify yourself as with the **Military Order of the Loyal Legion**. The web site for the Wyndham Hotel is: [www.wyndhamgettysburg.com](http://www.wyndhamgettysburg.com).

**Remember – hotel space will soon become scarce, and our unused rooms will be released and taken quickly by people coming to Gettysburg for the annual Applefest – so reserve early!**



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