



# LOYAL LEGION HISTORICAL JOURNAL



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

VOL. 75, NO. 1

WWW.MOLLUS.ORG

SPRING 2018

## The Search for the MOLLUS Archives: Recovering Our Legacy

*Ed Spannaus, DC Commandery*

Great progress has been made since our October 2017 National Congress, in identifying and locating the historic records of State Commanderies—which is good news for all concerned with preserving our legacy, and for genealogy and Civil War researchers.

One of the first acts of our new Commander-in-Chief, Eric Rojo, was to create a Special Committee on the Loyal Legion History and Preservation. The committee is led by Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Robert Pollock, and is well into the first phase of its work, the “discovery” phase, of determining the location of our historical records.

Our priority is to locate non-published archives, especially those containing membership applications and records, minutes and correspondence, and financial records.

Much work has already been done in updating the previous national inventory prepared by PC Keith Harrison. New information was received on the location of records for the following State Commanderies: Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, California, Oregon, and Wisconsin. This was in addition to what was already known about some State Commandery collections, and about those records held in the three major repositories: the Union League

in Philadelphia, Lincoln Memorial University (LMU) in Harrogate, TN, and the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, PA.

With help from the library staff at LMU, we have located some previously unknown repositories for MOLLUS State Commandery records, which include:

- **Kansas Commandery.** The Kansas Historical Society in Topeka has 12 cartons of original materials dating from 1885 to 1915, including minutes, membership information, correspondence, etc.—all of which is indexed.

*Continued on pg. 11.*

## DC Commandery Hosted Midwinter Meeting and Lincoln Birthday Celebration

*John Moore, Commander, DC Commandery*

The District of Columbia Commandery hosted the Loyal Legion Midwinter Meeting, the Lincoln Birthday Dinner, and supported the annual Lincoln Birthday Observance at the Lincoln Memorial. The weekend was filled with activities and attended by many distinguished guests and Loyal Legion Companions and Dames. Business meetings were followed by lunch and a tour of the National Museum of African American History.

The museum tour was moving and inspiring. There were artifacts, interpretive maps and diagrams, a segregated Southern Railroad coach and even cabins and buildings. The museum covered the entire

African American experience, from Africa, to slavery, up to the present. There was much to see on the Civil War era, which was of primary interest to our group.

The banquet began Sunday evening with the presentation of the colors by the Joint Armed Forces Color Guard, Jr. Vice Commander-in Chief Col. Robert Pollock led the pledge, followed by Chaplain-in-Chief Kevin Martin who offered the blessing. The Select Quartet, led by Dr. Young Kim of Lincoln Memorial University, sang patriotic songs featuring their close-knit harmony. During dinner were several traditional toasts, including a toast to Lincoln, the Loyal Legion and Dames,



*Ceremony commemorating Lincoln's 208th birthday organized by the Loyal Legion.*

*Continued on pg. 5.*

## COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S MESSAGE



*Col. Eric A. Rojo  
2017-2019 Commander in Chief*

I am happy to report that our National Midwinter meeting was most successful with congratulations going to Peter and Joan Dixon for their constant devotion to this event and John Moore as a most gracious host leading the DC Commandery.

As we begin our march to the future, it is essential that we ask ourselves an important existential question: "What is the current role and value of the Loyal Legion to our history, to our present, and to the future of our nation?"

Our beloved Order was organized based "...upon paramount respect for and fidelity to the National Constitution and Laws, manifested by discountenancing (refusing to approve)

whatever may tend to weaken loyalty, incite to insurrection, treason or rebellion, or impair in any manner the efficiency and permanency of our free institutions...enforce unqualified allegiance to the General Government; protect the rights and liberties of American citizenship, and maintain National Honor, Union and Independence."

With this in mind, it is most timely to quote General and President Grant: "Our great modern Republic. May those who seek the blessings of its institutions and the protection of its flag remember the obligations they impose." And, "If we are to have another contest in the near future of our national existence, I predict that the dividing line will not be Mason and Dixon's but between patriotism and intelligence on the one side, and superstition, ambition and ignorance on the other."

Are we living up to this standard? I would like to hear from you and see a consensus of perspectives as we set on a course to grow; and, recover the national importance the Loyal Legion had not quite 100 years ago.

Hence, to achieve our objectives of growth and visibility, we are noticing some changes are needed in the job descriptions of Loyal Legion officers (even if it is only a word and in some cases totally outdated, all changes are required to be approved by Constitutional amendment, which makes our process very cumbersome when the needed operational change needs to be now); and, have created new Special Committees that are set to take necessary actions. These are Special Committees on: Public Relations and Information; Awards and Decorations; The Next Generation; The Loyal Legion History and Preservation; and National Committee On Civil War-Related Centennial (instead of Sesquicentennial) Celebrations. All will be posted, properly annotated on our website. We are also in the process of reviewing options for an up-to-date website that will increase our visibility and, most important, our communications capabilities.

Many Companions have agreed to serve on committees and there is room for more as the work to be done can be best achieved when all of us participate.

In closing, I make reference to what a wise man admonished: If we want to achieve something different than what we have now, we have to do something different. I encourage each one of you to become involved now as we implement changes that will support the growth of the Loyal Legion as we move toward the future.

— Colonel Eric A. Rojo



### In Memoriam

#### John Kent "Jack" Kane 1934-2017

Companion John Kent Kane II (Jack) of Yorktown, VA, passed away Saturday, December 16, 2017. Jack was born May 11, 1934 in Bryn Mawr, PA. He is survived by his wife Nancy Kane, his sons John Kent Kane III (Gale), Robert Tenney Kane (Mary), and Evan Paul Kane. He is also survived by his brother Companion Peter Bayard Kane (Sandra), three grandsons and two granddaughters.

Jack graduated from The Haverford School, Washington and Lee University, and completed graduate studies at Virginia Tech. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and was a lifelong Marine. Jack was a consulting hydrogeologist, retiring as President of Russnow-Kane and Associates, Inc.

Jack Kane was involved in many organizations, including having served as past Captain of Division 6 Coast Guard Auxiliary, past Commander of Hampton Roads Power Squadron, member and past Commodore of Seaford Yacht Club, and member of Hampton Yacht Club. In addition, he was a member of the Kiwanis Club of Grafton, the SCV, the St. Andrews Society of Williamsburg, the Clan MacDougall Society, Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, and was the current Recorder-in-Chief of MOLLUS.

Jack never met a stranger and was a legendary conversationalist. The Loyal Legion will greatly miss him.



LOYAL LEGION  
HISTORICAL JOURNAL

Vol. 75, No. 1

**Commander-in-Chief**  
Col. Eric Armando Rojo

**Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief**  
Joseph Thomas Coleman, Ed.D.

**Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief**  
Col. Robert D. Pollock

**Recorder-in-Chief**  
Dr. Gary Grove

**Treasurer-in-Chief**  
Lee Allan Tryon

**Registrar-in-Chief**  
Adam P. Flint

**Chancellor-in-Chief**  
Michael Timothy Bates

**Judge Advocate-in-Chief**  
Gerald Fitzgerald Fisher, Esq.

**Chaplain-in-Chief**  
Kevin Lee Martin

**Surgeon-in-Chief**  
Dr. Daniel Henry Heller

**Council-in-Chief**  
Harold L. Colvocoresses Jr.  
Lawrence Alan Converse  
Peter Arrott Dixon  
Linn M. Malaznik  
Clifton Potter, Jr., Ph.D.  
Lt. Ryan B. Weddle

The *Loyal Legion Historical Journal* is a quarterly publication published by the Memorial Fund of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, which was founded April 15, 1865. Pertinent materials will be welcomed by members and the public. Articles and news should be submitted to Shawn Beyer, Editor ([shawnbeyer1@verizon.net](mailto:shawnbeyer1@verizon.net)). Content must be formatted in MS Word and submitted electronically. High resolution photographs and artwork should be submitted in JPG format and be accompanied by a description or caption.

Submission deadlines are the 15th of February, May, August, and November.

©2018 Memorial Fund of the Loyal Legion of the United States

## INSIDE

- 1 The Search for the MOLLUS Archives, *Edward Spannaus*
- 1 DC Commandery Hosted Mid-Winter Meeting, *John Moore*
- 2 Commander-in-Chief's Message, *Col. Eric A. Rojo*
- 2 In Memoriam: Jack Kent Kane II
- 4 Trustee's Corner
- 4 2018 National Congress Set for Richmond
- 5 Abraham Lincoln Foundation Receives Support From Loyal Legion Memorial Fund, *John Meko*
- 6 Up From Obscurity: The Influence of Lincoln's Early Life on His Thought and Politics, *Michael Lynch*
- 9 A Boy Named Ulysses, *Marston Watson*
- 10 Commandery News
- 11 Millennial Minute
- 12 Frederick Talley Drum Hunt Scholarship Awarded
- 12 Companions Participate in Remembrance Day Parade, *Gary Grove*
- 13 DOLLUS President's Message, *Ellen Higgins*
- 14 2018 Loyal Legion Midwinter Meeting and Abraham Lincoln Birthday Celebration in Pictures



## TRUSTEES' CORNER

### Using a Tax-Savvy Strategy to Support MOLLUS

One way to support the Loyal Legion Memorial Fund is by making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA. It's a tax-savvy strategy that allows you to transfer money from your IRA directly to a qualified charity, such as the Memorial Fund. It is only available from IRAs owned by individuals who have reached the required minimum distribution (RMD) age of 70.5 years. Any amount processed as a QCD counts toward your RMD requirement and reduces the taxable amount of your IRA distribution. This lowers both your adjusted gross income and taxable income, resulting in a lower overall tax liability.

As an example: a Companion and his spouse, utilizing the standard married

couple deduction of \$26,550 set by the new tax law, and subject to an RMD of \$24,000, can instead direct \$10,000 of it to a charity like the Fund as a QCD. It will reduce their taxable income by \$10,000 and they still get to claim the same \$26,550 standard deduction.

In this case, if the couple is in the new 24% tax bracket, by using this strategy, they would have saved \$2,400 in federal taxes alone—and potentially more in state tax savings. Best of all, they will have helped the Fund meet and even expand its charge of publishing the Journal, supporting the work of like-minded organizations, and staging commemorative and other special events.

## Welcome New Companions

### Hereditary

Frank Charles Avila 22713 CA  
John Badman III 22714 NY  
Brian Scott Lankford 22715 IN  
Marc Abraham Hermann 22716 NY  
Nathaniel Lane Taylor 22717 RI  
Richard Kenneth Dunham 22718 VA  
James Dickinson Moore 22719 DC  
Robert Springer Moore 22720 DC  
Randall Alan Hammond 22721 NY  
Paul Alan McElhanev 22722 PA  
David Hart Robinson 22723 MO  
Wesley Francis Sainz 22724 VA  
Scott Elliot Bobbs 22725 IN  
William Coburn Bobbs III 22726 IN

### Associate

Glenn Alex Webber A309 TX  
Jonathan Wilson Graves DeFabio  
A310 VA  
Nathan Lee Smith A311 MI

## 2018 National Congress Set for Richmond, October 12-14

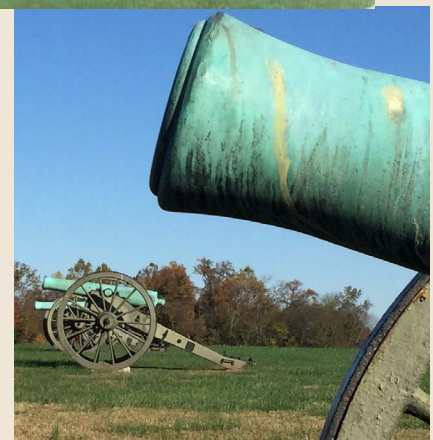
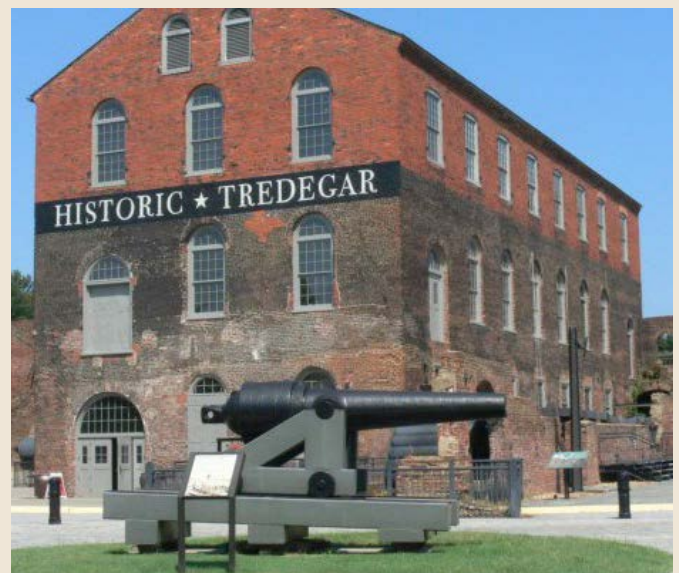
The Virginia Commandery is pleased to be hosting the 2018 National Congress in Richmond on October 12-14. It is the first time the Commandery has hosted the event since 2001.

Richmond was a focus of the Federal war effort for four long years of Civil War, and today the city offers many historical and cultural attractions:

- The White House of the Confederacy
- The American Civil War Museum at Historic Tredegar (which now includes the collection of the Museum the Confederacy)
- The N.P.S. Richmond National Battlefield Park headquarters, with seven battlefields in close proximity to downtown
- The Virginia Historical Society's Museum of Virginia History and Culture
- The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

As an added bonus, Richmond has become known in recent years as a home of outstanding restaurants and nightlife. We'll have an opportunity to sample much of what this growing city has to offer (especially if you come early or stay after!).

Prepare to enjoy all this city has to offer, and make plans to join us October 12-14. Look for more details and a reservation form in the summer issue of the *Loyal Legion Historical Journal*.



## Abraham Lincoln Foundation Receives Support from Loyal Legion Memorial Fund

*John Meko, PA Commandery*

The Abraham Lincoln Foundation recently received a generous gift from the Loyal Legion Memorial Fund to continue its work to enhance, maintain, and exhibit the historic collections of the Union League, and to use these collections and the history of the League and Philadelphia to conduct educational programs for members, scholars, students, and the general community.

Twenty-two years after its founding in 1996, the ALF has succeeded in reaching many of these original goals. The artwork of the League is well maintained, the archives and library collections have been organized and processed, and the collection more than doubled in size through acquisitions and loan agreements with other institutions. The ALF has presented both the League's and Philadelphia's Civil War histories to thousands of people through tours, exhibits, lectures, programs, and publications.

Programs, such as the Jack M. Templeton Liberty Series, bring thought-leaders and policy makers to the League for lectures and discussions about economic, political, and individual liberties. The program is an outgrowth of Liberty Weekend, a program for college students presented by the two other charities of the League, the Youth Work and Scholarship Foundations. To date, nearly 2,000 members and guests have attended the Liberty Series.

Recently, the ALF was instrumental in the completion of the Octavius V. Catto memorial at City Hall, and each year the ALF is a leading partner in National History Day Philadelphia, an educational program that serves over 600 students.

Through tours of the League and the annual Open House, thousands of visitors view the art collection and architecture of the League, and learn about the history, spirit, and ethos of the most important club of its type in the United States. In 2017, over 30,000 people attended pro-

grams, lectures, and exhibits. Through the Heritage Center website and social media, nearly 100,000 people accessed this year's Liberty Series programs.

The ALF's impact is significant, but it is only the beginning. The Foundation stands poised to leverage the great history, leadership, and values of the League into something even greater. The vision ahead includes expanded programming, opportunities for scholarly research, and more collaborative partnerships that will give the ALF and the Union League the capacity to share the legacy and spirit of the League for generations.

To learn more about the ALF and the Foundations of the Union League, please visit [www.ulheritagecenter.org](http://www.ulheritagecenter.org).

*John Meko is a member of the PA Commandery and Executive Director of the Foundations of the Union League of Philadelphia.*

---

*Virginia Commandery, from page 1.*

and departed comrades. Commander-in-Chief Col. Eric Rojo introduced several guests, including MGEN Willam M. Matz, Jr., Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission. Col. Rojo also introduced the Dr. Clayton Hess, President of Lincoln Memorial University. After dessert, Michael Lynch, Director of the Lincoln Library and Museum gave a presentation on the influence of Lincoln's early life on his social attitudes and politics (see page 6).

The following day, Loyal Legion members attended the Lincoln Birthday Commemoration at the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall in Washington. The event was hosted by the National Park Service and featured music by the brass quintet of the U.S. Marine Band, and by the Select Quartet from Lincoln Memorial University singing the Battle Hymn of the Republic. Judge Gary W. Wade, Dean of the Duncan School of Law at Lincoln Memorial University and retired Chief Judge of the Tennessee Supreme Court made brief remarks and gave a solemn but

*Left to right: Recorder-in-Chief Gary Grove, Commander-in-Chief Eric Rojo, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Robert Pollack, and Treasurer-in-Chief Lee Tryon..*



heartfelt reading of the Gettysburg Address. The Military Order of the Loyal Legion, the Dames of the Loyal Legion, and several allied orders laid lovely wreaths at the base of the Lincoln Statue.

Afterward, a luncheon was held in Alexandria where keynote speaker, Ranger Kevin Patti of the National Park Service, spoke on Clara Barton, the famous Civil War nurse and founder of the American Red Cross.

## Up From Obscurity: *The Influence of Lincoln's Early Life on His Thought and Politics*

Michael Lynch, Lincoln Library and Museum

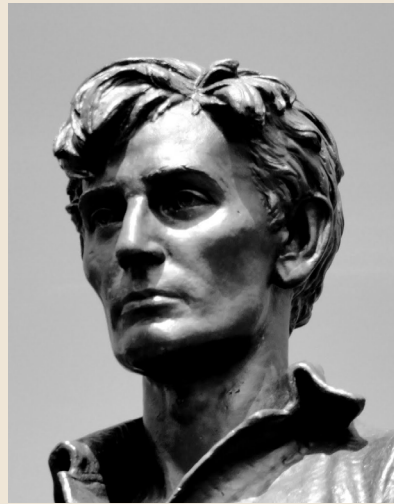
Abraham Lincoln was not especially interested in his own family background. When he did refer to his own ancestry and early life, he usually emphasized the humility of his family's circumstances. In 1860, the same year he ran for the presidency, he told a newspaper editor who was working on a campaign biography, "Why Scripps,... it is a great piece of folly to attempt to make anything out of my early life. It can all be condensed into a single sentence, and that sentence you will find in Gray's Elegy [the short and simple annals of the poor]. That's my life, and that's all you or anyone else can make of it."

### Rising from Humble Origins

Although Lincoln was dismissive of his own background, his humble origins have been the subject of fascination for those who have studied and commemorated him. In his study of America's collective memory of Lincoln, historian Merrill Peterson identified the image of the "self-made man" as one the most enduring and significant recurring themes deployed by writers, poets, and artists who have made Lincoln their subject. The image of the log cabin has become a symbol for Lincoln's rise from frontier obscurity.

However, the notion of Lincoln as a self-made frontiersman of humble origins isn't merely the stuff of myth. It reflects the actual circumstances of his birth and youth, and his adult life was characterized by a lifelong practice of self-improvement that was essentially a response to these circumstances. Lincoln's humble frontier origins and his determined effort to rise beyond them shaped both his political allegiances and his deepest convictions about the meaning of America.

"I was born Feb. 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky," he wrote in an autobiographical statement the year he was elected to the presidency. "My parents were both



©LINGUIST-IN-WAITING.COM

born in Virginia, of undistinguished families—second families, perhaps I should say....My father, at the death of his father, was but six years of age; and he grew up, literally without education."

It's important not to overstate the Lincoln family's poverty. Some early biographers made exactly that mistake. The most notable of these was Lincoln's own law partner William Herndon, who claimed that Lincoln's father Thomas had been a shiftless ne'er-do-well. All of Abraham Lincoln's finer qualities, Herndon believed, came from his mother. Perhaps this theory developed out of an exaggerated interpretation of some of the statements Herndon collected from Lincoln's friends and relatives. As Abraham's cousin Dennis Hanks said, Thomas Lincoln "was a man who took the world Easy—did not possess much envy." Another neighbor described Thomas as "a piddler—always doing but doing nothing great."

Later researchers, most notably Louis A. Warren, achieved something of a rehabilitation of Thomas Lincoln's reputation. The documentary record establishes that he was a respected member of his community and church—certainly not wealthy, but able to

purchase the family farms in Kentucky outright. He left the Bluegrass State for Indiana not because of any personal or financial failure, but because the uncertainty of land tenure in Kentucky put small farmers such as himself at a disadvantage, rendering them unable to uphold title to lands they believed they had legitimately purchased. Thomas Lincoln achieved a kind of basic material sufficiency, no small feat in the backwoods of Kentucky.

### Driven to Improve and Advance

Lincoln wanted something more than sufficiency. Herndon referred to Abraham Lincoln's ambition as "a little engine that knew no rest." From childhood he developed a lifelong habit of self-improvement, evident in his determination to educate himself by getting his hands on as many books as possible. Some family members mistook Abraham's determined cultivation of his own intellect for laziness. Dennis Hanks claimed that "Lincoln was lazy—a very lazy man. He was always reading—scribbling—writing—ciphering—writing Poetry." His father, Dennis remembered, would sometimes have to "slash him for neglecting his work by reading." In retrospect, of course, we can see this aversion to manual labor as an early manifestation of his drive to become something more than the farmer and carpenter his father was.

Nor did Lincoln disdain the role of labor in personal advancement. Indeed, it was a lesson he learned at an early age. He later recalled an incident from his Indiana boyhood, in which two passengers with trunks approached his boat and asked him to row them to a passing steamer on the Ohio River. As the steamer prepared to pull out, the two men each tossed him a silver half-dollar. "I could scarcely believe my eyes as I picked up the money," he remembered.

“You may think it was a very little thing... but it was a most important incident in my life. I could scarcely credit that I, the poor boy, had earned a dollar in less than a day: that by honest work I had earned a dollar in less than a day.... I was a more hopeful and thoughtful boy from that time.” Later in life, he would continue to tout the importance of hard work in any effort at self-improvement. In 1855, he told a young man who inquired about preparing to become a lawyer, “Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed, is more important than any other one thing.”

### **Humble Roots a Political Asset**

This belief in the possibility of self-advancement meshed well with the emerging political culture in which Lincoln came of age. By the Jacksonian era, being a self-made common man was no longer the liability it had been for those seeking office in the wake of the Revolution. Humble origins suddenly became a political asset. Lincoln deployed his own modest background when announcing his candidacy for the Illinois legislature in his first political campaign in 1832, telling Sangamon County voters, “I was born and have ever remained in the most humble walks of life. I have no wealthy or popular relations to recommend me. My case is thrown exclusively upon the independent voters of this county, and if elected they will have conferred a favor upon me, for which I shall be unremitting in my labors to compensate. But if the good people in their wisdom shall see fit to keep me in the background, I have been too familiar with disappointments to be very much chagrined.”

Nearly 30 years later, during the contest for the presidency in 1860, Lincoln’s supporters continued to play up the idea of the self-made, frontier everyman. At the Republican’s nominating convention, Lincoln boosters carried in two split rails supposedly cut by Lincoln and John Hanks during the former’s youth, symbols of the candidate’s humble origins as a member of the laboring class.

### **Committed to Support Average Men**

Even as Lincoln drew on the idea of the self-made common man to build his politi-

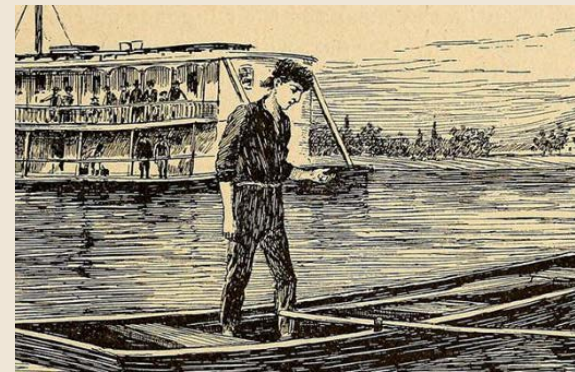
cal career, there was a paradox inherent in his emphasis on personal advancement and self-improvement. Lincoln spent most of his adult life as a member of the Whig Party, and he shared that party’s commitment to vigorous financial institutions, its support for tariffs to foster American industries, and above all its desire to see federal support for improvements in transportation, such as canals, railroads, and the dredging of rivers. Like other Whigs, he believed the cultivation of an atmosphere in which average people could better themselves was a public responsibility. By funding improvements in transportation, by chartering banks, and by implementing taxes on imported goods, Whigs argued, small-time farmers and manufacturers (like Thomas Lincoln) could gain access to the markets and credit they needed to achieve something more than a mere subsistence.

Lincoln, I believe, came by his Whiggism honestly, partly because the ideology of prosperity fit together well with his own personal ambitions, and partly because his years on the frontier instilled a sense of the need for economic development.

The frontiers of Indiana and Illinois were both river-based societies. The settlers Lincoln knew as a youth depended on the rivers that emptied into the Ohio to get their goods to market. As a veteran riverboat man, Lincoln knew both the possibilities and the perils of waterborne trade and transportation networks. As a youth, he made two trips to New Orleans, carrying goods on flatboats down the Mississippi. In 1832, he helped pilot the steamboat *Talisman* from Springfield to New Salem, Illinois as part of a test to see how well this relatively new form of travel could travel up the Sangamon River. When he settled in New Salem and sought political office that same year, the need for improving frontier access to markets by water was the focus of his first newspaper appeal. Claiming that rail access was too expensive to link the region to wider markets, he called for improvements to navigation of the Sangamon River. I believe the improvement of the Sangamon river, to be vastly important and highly desirable to the people of this county; and if elected, any

measure in the legislature having this for its object, which may appear judicious, will meet my approbation, and shall receive my support,” he said.

Lincoln remained a zealous advocate for internal improvements for the rest of his life. As a lawyer, his most substantial fees came from representing steamboat and railroad companies. Even as president, though he had to devote most of his attention to the war, he remained devoted to the same development of infrastructure that he had advocated for as a young Illinois legislator. In 1862 he signed into law an act authorizing land grants and the sale of government bonds to build a railroad linking the Missouri River with the West Coast, referring to the joining of the nation together by rail as a “great enterprise.”



Even as a Republican, his Whiggish impulses never left him. In the words of historian Daniel Walker Howe, Lincoln “shared the typical Whig aspiration for humanity to triumph over its physical environment.” His commitment to national development reflected his awareness—dating back to the early years when he saw his frontier neighbors struggle to expand their access to markets—that prosperity required infrastructure.

### **Slavery a Threat to Free Labor**

Furthermore, Lincoln’s commitment to self-improvement and his belief in the possibility of advancement undoubtedly influenced his eventual commitment to the Republican Party, with its emphasis on free labor as the foundation for American prosperity and liberty. What united the

first Republicans was a conviction that the spread of slavery not only threatened national unity and development, but also undermined the dignity and vitality of free labor.

Shortly before the outbreak of the war, Lincoln penned a fragment on the contrast between free labor, which offered the promise of advancement, and slavery, which did not: “We know, Southern men declare that their slaves are better off than hired laborers amongst us. How little they know, whereof they speak! There is no permanent class of hired laborers amongst us. Twenty five years ago, I was a hired laborer. The hired laborer of yesterday, labors on his own account to-day; and will hire others to labor for him to-morrow. Advancement — improvement in condition — is the order of things in a society of equals.” He added, “Free labor has the inspiration of hope; pure slavery has no hope.”

This emphasis on the relationship between free labor, free institutions, and opportunity goes to the heart of one of Lincoln’s most deeply held convictions—the belief that America was an exceptional nation. He idealized America not only because it was an experiment in popular government, but also because it was one of the few countries where self-improvement and advancement of the kind that marked his entire adulthood was open to anyone, without the artificial restraints that bound people in other countries. Without restraints except, of course, for one. He believed that slavery made a mockery of the American experiment not only because it contradicted the founding promises in the Declaration of Independence, the charter from which he traced all the nation’s basic principles, but also because it denied the enslaved the opportunity for advancement that he saw as an indispensable component of the American promise. In his July 4, 1861 message to Congress, he called the war “a struggle for maintaining in the world, that form, and substance of government, whose leading object is, to elevate the condition of men—to lift artificial weights from all

shoulders—to clear the paths of laudable pursuit for all—to afford all, an unfettered start, and a fair chance, in the race of life.”

He invoked the same themes in an address to soldiers of the 166th Ohio in 1864. “I happen temporarily to occupy this big White House,” he told the troops. “I am a living witness that any one of your children may look to come here as my father’s child has. It is in order that each of you may have through this free government which we have enjoyed, an open field and a fair chance for your industry, enterprise and intelligence; that you may all have equal privileges in the race of life, with all its desirable human aspirations. It is for this the struggle should be maintained, that we may not lose our birthright—not only for one, but for two or three years. The nation is worth fighting for, to secure such an inestimable jewel.” For Lincoln, the war was never simply a matter of whether the U.S. would be one nation or two; it was a contest to determine whether common people could achieve the same spectacular rise to which he himself devoted much of his life.

### **Yearning for a Life of Significance**

It is critical to understand that Lincoln’s lifelong pursuit of self-improvement was never just about material advancement. Among his acquaintances, he was famously indifferent to appearances, to the material trappings of life that accompany wealth. Why, then, did he work so hard to escape his humble frontier origins? Why did he struggle to become something other than what Thomas Lincoln had been?

What Lincoln sought was not so much the opportunity to become wealthy as the opportunity to become significant. He strived for meaning more than money. In the same newspaper piece in which he posted notice of his first political campaign, he wrote that his greatest ambition was “that of being truly esteemed of my fellow men, by rendering myself worthy of their esteem.” It would be easy to dismiss this as a candidate’s platitude had not Lincoln expressed the same sentiments

privately. His close friend Joshua Speed recalled then when Lincoln endured a bout with depression in 1841, he agonized over the fact that he “had done nothing to make any human being remember that he had lived—and that to connect his name with the events transpiring in his day & generation and so impress himself upon them as to link his name with something that would redound to the interest of his fellow man was what he desired to live for.”

He eventually got his wish. More than two decades later, as president, Lincoln spoke to Speed about his emancipation policy. Speed, himself a member of a slave-owning family, had reservations about the measure. Lincoln reminded him of that long-ago conversation, in which he had expressed a desire to be remembered for great deeds. He believed that emancipation, he told Speed, was the fulfillment of that desire.

Long after Lincoln’s death, Speed reflected on the relationship between his friend’s remarkable rise, his singular character, and the free institutions that enabled and sustained him: “Now for me to have lived to see such a man rise from point to point, and from place to place, filling all the places to which he was called, with honor and distinction, until he reached the presidency, filling the presidential chair in the most trying times that any ruler ever had, seems to me more like fiction than fact. None but a genius like his could have accomplished so much, and none but a government like ours could produce such a man. It gave the young eagle scope for his wing. He tried it and soared to the top!”

*This article is an excerpt from a presentation given at the 2018 Midwinter Meeting on February 11, 2018 by Michael Lynch, Director of the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum and instructor of history at the Lincoln Memorial University.*

# A Boy Named Ulysses

*Marston Watson, Past Editor-in-Chief, PA Commandery*

Before there was a general and before there was a two-term president of the United States, there was a boy who weighed in at ten and three-quarters pounds at birth on April 27, 1822 at Point Pleasant, Ohio. His parents, Jesse Root and Hannah (Simpson) Grant, solicited advice from relatives to find a suitable name for their first child. The family settled on Hiram Ulysses Grant, perhaps influenced by Hannah's stepmother who admired the ancient Greek commander Ulysses.

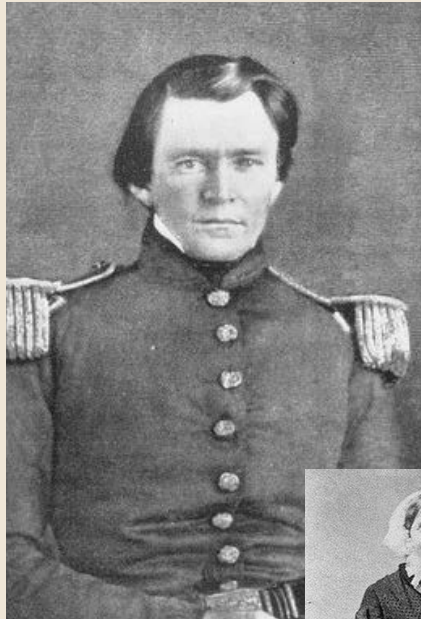
As the recent Ron Chernow biography entitled *Grant* makes clear, the subject's somewhat loquacious and ambitious father and almost silently subdued mother were devoted to each other. Hannah was resolutely determined to keep their affairs to herself and did not allow Ulysses to discuss family matters with others.

Ulysses missed the emotional warmth of his mother, who apparently never cried or discussed her feelings with her son. He describes his early life with his parents in his *Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant*, in which he readily admits to bottling up his emotions until later in life with his wife and children.

Ulysses grew up with his father's passionate stance as an abolitionist. Jesse Grant contributed his unabashed views against slavery in a local newspaper called *The Castigator*, which made its debut in 1826. He and his wife were rabidly partisan Democrats in those early years.

There was nothing remarkable about Grant in his early life. He was somewhat stout in appearance and socially awkward. He kept mostly to himself at school, but was serious minded in his studies.

Ulysses had a great love of horses, which was an outlet for his suppressed emotions. While his own gait was somewhat clumsy and awkward, he was at ease and graceful on horseback. He rode often without saddle or stirrups.



*Grant as a West Point cadet (above) and parents Hannah and Jesse Grant (right)*

Grant once demonstrated his exceptional riding skill at a circus in town. The ringmaster challenged anyone to ride a particularly difficult pony, which was bent on throwing off any rider. Ulysses accepted the challenge and demonstrated his exceptional skill at not being thrown from the pony, despite the ringmaster's attempt to dislodge him by adding a large monkey to ride with him. He added a second monkey to ride on his shoulder. Neither caused Ulysses to be distracted or thrown from the pony. The ringmaster gave up on further attempts to dislodge Ulysses and the monkeys after several turns around the ring.

Grant enjoyed farming and had no great ambitions for his future, neither in the military or in politics. Ulysses would have been content to live his life as a farmer. However, he detested his father's tanning business so much that he decided never to eat meat or anything that walked on two legs.

Ulysses was more keen on debating than he was in his studies as an adolescent.

Jesse Grant, who was prosperous in his business in 1835, sent Ulysses to Maysville Seminary, a private academy in Maysville, Kentucky. However, Ulysses returned home in spring 1837 when his father experienced financial distress. He remained there for a year until Jesse decided to have his son recommended for West Point in 1838, where Ulysses could be schooled at government expense. Despite his good fortune at being accepted at West Point, the future general did not want to attend.



Ulysses Grant said his formal farewell to his parents on May 15, 1839. There were no tears or emotional goodbyes. It was at this time that Ulysses had reversed the initials on his luggage to U.H.G. This

change in his initials became even more significant when he was registered as U. H. Grant at West Point. However, he mistakenly had been nominated for the Academy as Ulysses S. Grant.

One of his classmates, William Tecumseh Sherman, teased Ulysses about his name after he saw U. S. Grant on the bulletin board, by calling him Uncle Sam and then Sam Grant for short. Ulysses S. Grant adopted the erroneous name change as his own for the rest of his life, with no middle name but only the initial "S."

Ulysses did well in his entrance exams at West Point. He was required to serve eight years in the United States Army after graduation, once he signed his enlistment papers on September 14, 1839. Grant did not consider this oath an idle act and was critical of General Robert E. Lee and other

*Continued on pg. 12.*

## PA Commandery Celebrated Lincoln and Catto in February

The Pennsylvania Commandery celebrated the birthday of the nation's 16th President, Abraham Lincoln at The Philadelphia Club on February 23.

Following a reception, PA Commander Brian Maloney introduced historian Roger Arthur who spoke about the "Wit and Wisdom of the 16th President." His talk was followed by a formal supper and toasts. Brian was joined by PA Sr. Vice-Commander Will Forbes; PA Jr. Vice-Commander, Charles W. Lentz; Treasurer Peter L. Bruemmer; Chancellor-in-Chief, Adam Flint; and former officers, companions and guests (including numerous members of the Philadelphia Forbes clan).



*Civil War reenactors and Loyal Legion companions gather during the Catto Birthday Remembrance Ceremony.*

The Loyal Legion celebration was serendipitously joined by the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry—arriving on horseback—who simultaneously celebrated the birthday of the Nation's 1st President, George Washington, also at The Philadelphia Club.

### O.V. Catto Birthday Celebration

Loyal Legion Recorder-in-Chief Gary Grove and PA Commandery Trustee Bill White represented MOLLUS in the Octavius Valentine Catto (1839-1871) Birthday Remembrance Ceremony at the recently inaugurated "A Quest for Parity" statue at Philadelphia's City Hall. Catto was recently posthumously inducted into MOLLUS PA.

MOLLUS representatives were joined by Maj Gen Wesley E. Craig Jr., Adjutant General and Commander of the Pennsylvania National Guard; Guard troops, cadets from VMI; members of the O.V. Catto Elks Lodge, one of the largest African American organizations in Philadelphia; and an honor guard from the 3rd Regiment United States Colored Troops Reenactors. The Ceremony was followed by lunch at the Union League of Philadelphia.

O.V. Catto was an educator, intellectual, and civil rights activist in Philadelphia, where he had been educated and then became principal of the Quaker Institute for Colored Youth. In 1864, Catto helped raise 11 U.S. Colored Troop regiments in Philadelphia, a remarkable achievement totaling 10,940 men.

### 2018 Lincoln Day at the Union League of Philadelphia

On his second visit to Philadelphia, President-elect Lincoln met with City of Philadelphia's Select and Common Councils in the Assembly Room at Independence Hall on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1861, where he gave a memorable speech. Outside, he raised the new



*Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Joe Coleman and Recorder-in-Chief Gary Grove in front of Independence Hall on Lincoln Day.*



*Reenactors gathered in front of the Union League of Philadelphia on Lincoln Day.*

34-star flag. This speech and the flag-raising ceremony are reenacted each Lincoln Day following a 10-block parade from the Union League to Independence Hall. This year's parade followed a luncheon in Lincoln Hall of the Union League where over 500 guests listened to guest speaker, Attorney General Jeff Sessions. PA MOLLUS members participating on the Lincoln Day activities included Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Joe Coleman; newly installed Recorder-in-Chief Gary Grove; and fellow PA Companions Ellis Adams, Brad Mills, Andy Waskie, John Meko and Jim Mundy.

## VA Commandery Funds Marker for Point of Rocks Hospital

At its November meeting, the members of the Virginia Commandery voted to support creation of an exciting new interpretive marker near Richmond with a \$500 gift. The Chesterfield County Historical Society is planning to erect a granite marker to commemorate a large Civil War hospital and cemetery near “Point of Rocks,” along the James River south of Richmond. More than 1,300 Union soldiers were initially buried at the location; their remains were later moved to City Point National Cemetery in 1866. President Lincoln and his wife Mary visited the hospital in March 1865.



*Designer's conception of the proposed Point of Rocks marker near Richmond*

*MOLLUS Archives, continued from pg. 1.*

- **Minnesota Commandery.** The Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul has 33 boxes of materials, dating from 1866 to 1953. This includes minute books, correspondence, annual reports, scrapbooks, and extensive membership records and biographical materials. A finding aid lists the names of hundreds of Companions for whom biographical sketches are available.
- **Nebraska Commandery.** The Nebraska State Historical Society in Lincoln, has one box of materials dating from 1885 to 1923, including membership lists, correspondences, financial records, circulars, and ephemera – all cataloged.
- **Washington State Commandery,** The Washington State Historical Society in Tacoma has cataloged important historical records, dating from 1890 to 1915. This includes meeting minutes, the Chancellor's record, and a register containing detailed membership records. Other libraries in Washington State have circulars and other materials.

Most of these libraries and historical societies have prepared detailed finding

aids for their MOLLUS collections, which serve as a guide to researchers and others interested in examining these materials.

The Special Committee is continuing its work with State Commandery Records to identify the location of the historic records of our 20 existing Commanderies, and we also seeking the location of the records of historic Commanderies no longer in existence, most of which have been incorporated into nearby State Commanderies. Historic Commanderies whose records we haven't yet located are Iowa, Maine, Maryland, and Vermont.

One of our objectives is to be able to compile and circulate a complete national inventory of all historical records of the Order. Beyond that, we will continue our efforts to assist the Army War College in processing and cataloging its large collection of Commandery-in-Chief and District of Columbia Commandery records.

The efforts of the Special Committee and all those who are assisting us, represent some of the most important work we can do to fulfill our mandate and secure the legacy of our Original Companions and all those who fought and sacrificed to preserve the Union.



## MILLENNIAL MINUTE

Formed at last year's National Congress, the Committee on Next Generation will lead the charge to recruit Millennials and other new members. In support of that effort, all companions are encouraged to:

- Set a realistic goal for 2018 Millennial recruiting within your Commandery (including Associates!);
- Proactively offer young members assistance in identifying and proving qualifying relationships to eliminate barriers to membership—keep in mind, most young men don't know if they're eligible;
- Ensure events are attractive to members of all generations (i.e. would you have wanted to attend this event when you were 25 or 35?), and personally invite young members to participate;
- Take the initiative to meet and mentor younger Companions within your Commandery.

Feel free to reach out to the Next Generation Committee Chair to discuss this initiative and what your Commandery can do to attract Millennials.

### Next Generation Committee

Hobie Kistler (Chair)

(814) 441-6332

[hobart.k.kistler@gmail.com](mailto:hobart.k.kistler@gmail.com)

Paul Davis

Will Forbes

Paul Lader

Tim Hennessey

James Rojek

Frank Scaturro

## Frederick Talley Drum Hunt Scholarship Awarded

The DC Commandery and the Loyal Legion Commandery-in-Chief sponsors an annual scholarship to honor the outstanding scholar of the Severn School in Severna Park, Maryland. The Severn School was established in 1914 as a private preparatory school for the United States Naval Academy.

The award is named for Companion Frederick Talley Drum Hunt, Sr. who organized and coordinated the National Lincoln Birthday Ceremonies at the Lincoln Memorial for many years.

The award consists of a \$500 scholarship, a recognition certificate, and an invitation to the annual Lincoln Birthday Ceremonies at the Lincoln Memorial.

The recipients of the 2018 Frederick Talley Drum Hunt Award are Jimmy Diamondidis and Aiden Wang.



THE ADAMS PHOTO

*Commander-in-Chief Eric Rojo (center with Frederick Talley Drum Hunt Award recipients Jimmy Diamondidis (left) and Aiden Wang (right)).*

*Grant, continued from pg. 9.*

West Point graduates who violated their oath while serving as Confederate officers in the Civil War.

While Grant's academic achievements were by no means exceptional, he was not a flop as he is sometimes characterized. For the most part, his time at West Point was uneventful, but he demonstrated the honesty, candor, and generosity that were an integral part of his early childhood. His excellent horsemanship was greatly admired by his fellow cadets.

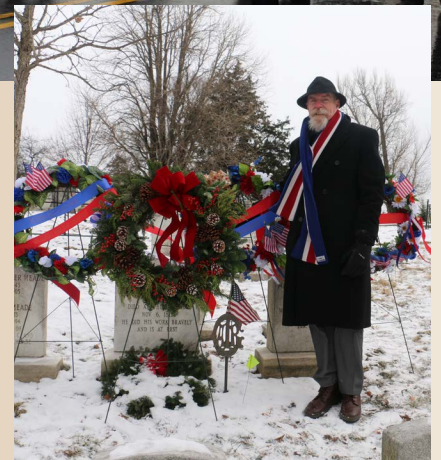
Ulysses S. Grant graduated 25th out of 39 in his class in 1843. He scored exceptionally well in some subjects, despite his somewhat lackadaisical work ethic. He was ready to begin his long and storied life as a general and U.S. president. Gen. Grant later became a member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States.

## Companions Participate in Remembrance Day Parade

*Dr. Gary Grove, Recorder-In-Chief*

Although it was a very cold, damp day and security was extremely high due to bomb threats, a number of Loyal Legion Companions had a great time in Gettysburg celebrating Remembrance Day in November. Shown (right) leading the way with our new banner is Lt. Hobart Kistler (PA) and Commander Linn Malaznik (CA). Following in the second row is Dr. Gary Grove (PA), Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Dr. Joe Coleman, Commander-in-Chief Col. Eric Rojo, Past Commander-in-Chief Rick Bury (OH) and Commander Kim Heltemes (WI). Our group also participated in other ceremonies honoring General Meade and John Page Nicholson prior to the parade. After the parade we had a great time drying out and wetting our whistles at a local pub.

We hope that Gettysburg Remembrance Day will become one of our premier member events on the Commandery-in-Chief calendar. Be sure to join us next Remembrance Day on Nov. 17, 2018, I guarantee you won't regret being a part of these festivities.



*Joe Coleman at Gen. Meade's grave in Laurel Hill Cemetery outside Philadelphia.*



## NEW! MOLLUS Wall Plaques

Through the efforts of N.Y. Commander Ryan Weddle, the Quartermaster will be ordering these MOLLUS insignia wall plaques from a distinguished company in Great Britain. An initial run of ten plaques has been ordered. After the initial order has been sold, a one-time ordering process will include prepaid orders only. Prices will depend on volume, exchange rates and shipping costs. The cost to purchase one of the first ten will be \$70 (s/h included). You may reserve one by emailing the quartermaster at: [drjtc30@comcast.net](mailto:drjtc30@comcast.net). This limited number of plaques will be sold on a first come, first serve basis. The size of the plaques is approximately 5"x7."



## President's Message

I would like to thank everyone who attended the National Executive Board meeting held in February, we had a very successful and productive meeting. Some of the items that we accomplished included finalizing our philanthropic donation, website and Facebook updates, discussion about a tri-fold information brochure for the Dames, and approving amendments and updates to our National Constitution and Bylaws. We have made a 10-year commitment for an annual donation to President Lincoln's Cottage at the Soldier's Home in Washington, DC. Prior to our respective meetings, DOLLUS and MOLLUS held a joint memorial service. We honored President Lincoln, past members of military, recently departed members of our organization, and others in a very lovely service.

Shortly after the morning meetings adjourned, we boarded our bus and traveled to the National Museum of African American History in DC. We once again had an enjoyable afternoon organized by our fabulous tour guides, Peter and Joan Dixon. Upon arriving back at our hotel, some of us were able to grab a quick nap before we attended the annual Lincoln's Birthday dinner.

On Monday, Lincoln's Birthday, a wreath laying ceremony was held at the Lincoln Memorial with many organizations in attendance to honor our great President. Representing the Dames of the Loyal Legion of the United States, I placed a wreath at the foot of the statue of Lincoln. The weekend concluded with the annual Lincoln Birthday Luncheon.

This is the time of year when I would like to remind you to begin the process of nominating a male or female relative for the Helen Soden Brady Memorial Scholarship. The DOLLUS member must write a letter of application that includes the name, address and age of the applicant, along with the name of the college or university the applicant will attend, their year in school, course of study and the year of expected graduation. Other information the letter should include are any activities or awards the applicant received in school and their current grade point average. Letters must be received by July 1, 2018 and sent to the chairman of the scholarship committee.

For those Dames who would like a copy of the updated Constitution and Bylaws, please email the National President.

Remember, National Member-At-Large dues are due to the National MAL Chair and State Society dues (Ohio and District of Columbia) were due to your State Society Treasurer on March 1. Dues notices were sent to all members, if you did not receive one contact the National President.

Please visit our National website at [www.dollus.org](http://www.dollus.org) for officer contact information and upcoming events and meetings. I encourage you to attend one of the many Loyal Legion activities held throughout the year, they provide a great deal of symbolism and fellowship with groups and individuals interested in the Civil War era.

—Ellen M. Higgins, National President  
[SquirrelOCNJ@aol.com](mailto:SquirrelOCNJ@aol.com)



TEE ADAMS PHOTO

*DOLLUS National President Ellen Higgins places a wreath at the Lincoln Memorial.*

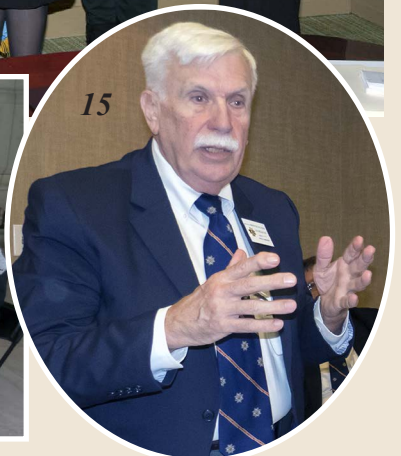
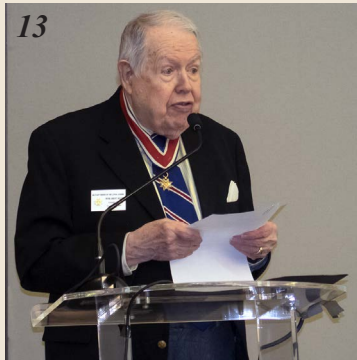
# Loyal Legion Midwinter Meeting & Abraham Lincoln's 209th Birthday Celebration

*The Loyal Legion Midwinter Meeting and Lincoln's Birthday Celebration took place in Washington, DC on February 10-12, 2018. It was a fun packed weekend with some important business taking place as well. Enjoy this look back at the event in pictures.*

*Captions:*

1. Commander-in-Chief Eric Rojo addressing the audience at the Lincoln Memorial.
2. DC Commander John Moore introduces the Joint Armed Forces Color Guard.
3. Companion Ed Spannaus (right) and Evelyn Smith, LMU at the Lincoln Birthday Dinner.
4. Dames Blanche Curfman (left) and Florence Stanley reviewing documents at the DOLLUS business meeting.
5. Wrapping up a exceptional tour of the National Museum of African American History, (r to l): Past Commander-in-Chief Kinny Post, Chaplain-in-Chief Kevin Martin, Blanche Curfman, and Marston Watson.
6. Statue at the Lincoln Memorial, Washington, DC.
7. Public Relations Committee Chair Paul Davis (standing) making a strong point at the MOLLUS business meeting with Treasurer-in-Chief Lee Tryon (seated) looking on.
8. Installation of Recorder-in-Chief Gary Grove by Registrar-in-Chief Adam Flint with Commander-in-Chief Eric Rojo (right).
9. Companion Lt. Hobart Kistler (right) with keynote speaker Michael Lynch discussing Abraham Lincoln.
10. At the Lincoln Memorial ceremony, Commander-in-Chief Eric Rojo presents a wreath on behalf of the Loyal Legion.
11. A contingency of Dames present at the 2018 Mid-Winter Meeting. (l to r): Past National President Lynne Bury, Cathy Harris, National President Ellen Higgins, Erica Rojo, Past National President Florence Stanley, Janice Davis, Caren Cleaveland, Blanche Curfman.
12. DOLLUS President Ellen Higgins (left) with DUVCW President Caren Cleaveland.
13. Companion Peter Dixon.
14. U.S. Marine Band brass quartet playing during the Lincoln Memorial Ceremony.
15. Surgeon-in-Chief Dr. Daniel Heller.





Military Order of the Loyal Legion  
 Paul Davis  
 4490 Buteo Drive  
 Traverse City, MI 49684-6917

NON PROFIT ORG  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 AKRON, OH  
 PERMIT NO. 29

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**MOLLUS Merchandise  
 Order Today!**

For a complete list of merchandise, visit:  
<http://suvcw.org/mollus/resources/pricelist.htm>

Large membership certificates require additional information. Forms available on website.

Questions?  
 Contact Joe Coleman at [drjtc30@comcast.net](mailto:drjtc30@comcast.net)

Please include the shipping cost associated with your purchase.

Make checks payable to:  
 MOLLUS Commandery-in-Chief

Send orders and payment to:  
 Joseph T. Coleman, Ed.D  
 85 Beddington Lane  
 Strasburg, PA 17579

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Insignia # (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

	Price	Qty	Amount
Large Emblem Medal (Hereditary or Associate)*	\$160	_____	_____
Miniature Emblem Medal (Hereditary or Associate)*	\$85	_____	_____
Emblem Medals 14-16K Gold (3-4 month delivery) On request		_____	_____
Hereditary or Associate Replacement Ribbon (Large Medal)	\$20	_____	_____
Hereditary or Associate Replacement Ribbon (Miniature Medal)	\$20	_____	_____
Officer Neck Ribbon	\$20	_____	_____
Rosettes (Hereditary, Associate, or Honorary)	\$9	_____	_____
Officer Rosette (Indicate State or National)	\$24	_____	_____
Neck Tie or Bow Tie (All Silk)	\$34	_____	_____
Blazer Patch	\$20	_____	_____
Certificate of Hereditary Membership (8.5" x 11")	\$25	_____	_____
Certificate of Hereditary Membership (17" x 19")	\$65	_____	_____
Certificate of Associate Membership (8.5" x 11")	\$25	_____	_____
Official MOLLUS Scarf (9.5" x 72")	\$45	_____	_____
ROTC Medal with Ribbon Bar and Certificate	\$35	_____	_____
Book: Union Blue, by PCinC Robert G. Carroon	\$25	_____	_____
MOLLUS Golf Shirts (XL, XXL Only)	\$25	_____	_____
MOLLUS T-Shirts (S, M, L, XL, XXL)	\$15	_____	_____
MOLLUS Cuff Links (Vermeil)	\$100	_____	_____
Gold Plated Challenge Coin	\$25	_____	_____

Shipping based on total merchandise cost:

- Up to \$10 = \$5
- \$11 to \$50 = \$8
- \$51 to \$100 = \$10
- \$101 or more = \$14

Shipping \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Vermeil (gold on sterling silver)