

# Historical Journal



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Winter 2024

## Commander-in-Chief's Message

In lieu of my message in the fall issue of this Journal, I requested that the front page prominently feature details of the 2024 Congress to encourage attendance. Our membership responded with an excellent showing, and I am pleased to report that the 139th National Congress at Pamplin Historical Park in Petersburg, Virginia, turned out to be a great success. The Friday reception at Joe's Steak and Seafood proved an ideal venue to kick off events. The Saturday business meeting was held at Pamplin's National Museum of the Civil War Soldier. Without question the highlight was the approval by the Board of Officers of the Commandery-in-Chief to grant a charter authorizing the organization of a new commandery in the State of Tennessee. The DOLLUS members also had a productive meeting culminating in the election of officers for their 2024-26 term. I congratulate incoming DOLLUS National President Laurie Moore and all the newly elected officers and applaud outgoing President Jan Davis for successful term. In the afternoon attendees had time to explore the museum and 424-acre campus featuring the Civil War battlefield and several antebellum homes. At the formal banquet that evening, we were honored to have in attendance Kevin Martin, Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and Rosemary Martin, President of the National Auxiliary to the SUVCW. The keynote address was delivered by Colin Romanick, Executive Director of Pamplin Park, who spoke about the battle known as "The Breakthrough" that occurred on the park grounds on April 2, 1865. I am grateful to the Virginia Commandery for arranging a most enjoyable itinerary, with special thanks to Commander Sean Heuvel and PCinC Jeffrey Burden for planning and hosting the Congress. Looking ahead to next year, the 140th Congress will take place in Philadelphia.



Next year also marks our 160th year! We should be proud of our illustrious history but never complacent. The start of the new year is a great opportunity to reexamine and update goals with special attention to member retention and growth. Recognition for outstanding service must never be overlooked. To this end the Commandery-in-Chief offers two awards for distinguished service. The Meritorious Service Medal is awarded to companions who have demonstrated significant achievement in an area of interest to the Order. The Rutherford B. Hayes Cup and Medal recognizes a companion who has demonstrated conspicuously outstanding achievement over a period of time that has advanced the mission of, and brought great honor to, the Order. These awards are presented at the annual Congress. Nominations may be emailed to me any time before September at [michael.t.bates@comcast.net](mailto:michael.t.bates@comcast.net).

February is the month of Abraham Lincoln, and every commandery should be finalizing plans for an appropriate event to commemorate the anniversary of his birth. I will be in Washington, DC, on Wednesday, February 12, to participate in the annual Lincoln Tribute at the Lincoln Memorial. This is one of our Order's most visible activities of the year. The DC Commandery also hosts a formal evening banquet on February 11 in the DC area. Details and registration information will be sent to all companions via email once they become finalized. Please support your commandery event, and if you are able, make plans to join me in Washington, DC on February 11-12.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and blessings for a healthy and prosperous new year.

Loyally - Mike \*



# Loyal Legion Memorial Fund



The Trustees of the Loyal Legion Memorial Fund, on the recommendation of the Commandery-in-Chief's National Committee on Historic and Preservation Grants, announce donations will be made in 2025 from the Memorial Fund to the following organizations:

**Legacy Foundation of the Union League / Gettysburg Foundation / Grant Monument Association / Friends of U. S. Grant Cottage / Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation / Lincoln Library & Museum at Lincoln Memorial University / Ulysses S. Grant Homestead Association / Civil War Trust of the American Battlefield Trust / G.A.R. Civil War Museum & Library of Philadelphia / National Constitution Center / Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center / President Lincoln's Cottage (D.C.) / Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Association / Zellwood Historical Society Museum / U.S.S. Monitor Center / The Lincoln Forum / Civil War Trails, Inc.**

These donations from the Memorial Fund are a key fulfillment of its philanthropic and charitable mission. The Memorial Fund's ability to meet this mission is secured in part by the generous gifts of Companions and others, to the Fund. The envelope included in this issue of the Historical Journal allows you to make your own tax-deductible gift. Donations can also be made securely online at any time at: <https://loyallegion.org/about/loyal-legion-memorial-fund/>

As always, thanks for your interest and support!

The Trustees of the Loyal Legion Memorial Fund

## Welcome New Members

### HEREDITARY COMPANIONS

**Jackson William Piper, 22938, IL**

1LT Joseph Preston Moore, Co.K 35th Reg.Illinois Vol. Inf.

**John Bradley Carberry, 22939, VA**

2nd LT Ralph Marshall Horton, Co. I.1st Regt.Ohio Vol. Cavalry

**Ray Vaughn Cassell II, 22940, IN**

COL Reuben May, Field & Staff,7th Regt Kentucky, Vol. Inf.

**Nicholas Henry Winkler, 22941, IN**

1LT/ADJ. John Calvin Geyer 55th Regt. PA.OVI

**William Alan Brennan, 22942, IN**

CAPT. Joseph Warman Gillespie, Co. B 100th Regt.Indiana V.I.

**Henry Edward Phillips III, 22943, IN**

MAJOR James Scarboro Duncan F&S 7th Reg. East Tennessee V.I.

**Robert Stetson Butler 22944, RI**

GEN William Tecumseh Sherman

### ASSOCIATES COMPANIONS

**Charles Henry Stevenson, A380, OH**

**John Brewster Hattendorph, A381, RI**



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*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 on April 15, 1865. Pertinent materials will be welcomed by members and the public. Articles and news should be submitted to Paul Davis at [pdmarcomm@aol.com](mailto:pdmarcomm@aol.com). Content must be formatted in Microsoft Word and submitted electronically. High resolution photographs and art work (300 DPI JPEG or TIFF files) at the finished size to be published should be submitted and accompanied by a description and/or caption.

**Submission Deadlines:**

Submission deadlines are NO LATER THAN February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1.

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# CONGRESS PRE-PARTY



# CONGRESS MEETING ROOM



# CONGRESS MEETING ROOM - Continued



## 2024 Meritorious Service Award



**Clifton W. Potter**



## Life Members



## 2024 Daugherty-Thompson Award of Merit



# 2024 BANQUET



## 2024 BANQUET - Continued



# Charles Edgar Clark - Insignia VT 09210

By Clay Hoffman 22727 CA



Born in 1843 in Bradford, Vermont, MOLLUS Original Companion Charles Edgar Clark was an avid reader of military history at an early age, finding inspiration in the lives of Hannibal, Napoleon, and the Duke of Marlborough. He entered the U.S. Naval Academy in September 1860, and as a plebe was a crew member on the U.S.S. Constitution. In the summer of 1862, he served aboard the U.S.S. John Adams, and the following summer aboard the corvette Macedonian under Commander Stephen B. Luce.

Graduating from Annapolis in 1863, Clark was assigned to the sloop-of-war Ossipee, and saw action in the Battle of Mobile Bay, including the Siege of Fort Morgan (Alabama) in August 1864. After the Civil War, he served aboard the side-wheeler U.S.S. Vanderbilt, and the gunboat U.S.S. Suwanee. As a lieutenant commander, he was aboard the Suwanee when she ran aground near Vancouver Island (Canada) and was destroyed. The entire crew survived but had to fend off hostile Indians until being rescued by the British Royal Navy.

In 1869, Clark married Louisa Davis, the sister of one of his Annapolis classmates, and soon after that, he was named Commandant of Midshipmen at the Academy, followed by service on the monitor U.S.S. Mahopac. In 1874, he was ordered to the Asiatic Squadron and became executive officer of the U.S.S. Yantec, a wooden-hulled screw gunboat, and later served on the Yangtze River aboard the U.S.S. Monocacy, a sidewheel gunboat.

In 1879, Clark returned to the United States and was promoted to the rank of commander and given command of the U.S.S. New Hampshire. After serving on the U.S.S. Ranger on survey duty off the coast of Mexico and Central America, he was assigned to five years of shore duty, spending much of the time as a lighthouse inspector on the Great Lakes. In 1894, he was given command of the U.S.S. Mohican, a steam sloop of war, and in that role also commanded the ten vessels comprising the Bering Sea Patrol. As tensions rose with Spain, he was named commander of the monitor U.S.S. Monterrey.

In March 1898, Captain Clark took command of the battleship U.S.S. Oregon at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard in San Francisco. As war with Spain approached, he received orders to proceed to Key West, Florida, with all haste. Departing from San Francisco on March 19, the Oregon sailed over 14,000 miles, around Cape Horn at a record speed, to join the American fleet in Cuban waters on May 26. The voyage was hailed in the press as a remarkable achievement, and made clear the need for the Panama Canal to reduce travel time between the east and west coasts of the United States.

As part of the North Atlantic Squadron, which took up the blockade of Santiago, Clark kept the Oregon's boilers lit and her engines engaged. Of all the blockading ships, only Clark had the foresight to do this. On July 3, as he was dressing to go out on deck, alarms sounded, indicating that the Spanish fleet was attempting to make its escape from the harbor of Santiago, marking the beginning of the Battle of Santiago.

With engines and boilers ready, the Oregon was able to move quickly to pursue the enemy. She passed the entrance to Santiago Bay, and after firing at Spanish ships, she found herself joining the U.S.S. Brooklyn, an armored cruiser, in attacking virtually the entire Spanish squadron. Following the defeat of several enemy ships, the last of the escaping Spanish vessels was the Cristobal Colon, a Guiseppe Garibaldi-class armored cruiser. After a prolonged chase along the Cuban coast, the Oregon got within the range of her thirteen-inch guns. Sensing her probable demise, the Cristobal Colon ran aground.

Admired for his legendary command of the Oregon, Clark was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral in 1902, and retired from the U.S. Navy three years later. In addition to his membership in MOLLUS, he was a Veteran Companion of the Military Order of Foreign Wars, and a member of the Vermont Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Admiral Charles Edgar Clark died at his home in Long Beach, California, at the age of 79, on October 1, 1922, and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. The destroyer U.S.S. Clark, commissioned in 1936, was named for him. \*





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