

Loyal Legion

HISTORICAL JOURNAL



Fall 2018

www.mollus.org



Alexander Barton Gray



William R. Firth, III Esq.



Noah Edward Meyers

Loyal Legion Welcomes a New Generation of Members

Three Millennial members join the Pennsylvania Commandery

With recruitment assistance from the New Generation Committee, the Pennsylvania Commandery has installed three new Companions. Please join the Commandery in welcoming Alexander Barton Gray, William R. Firth, III Esq., and Noah Edward Meyers.

Alex Gray is the great-great-great-grandson of Captain Duane Merritt Greene of the 6th California Volunteer Infantry. Alex currently serves as Special Assistant to the President for the Defense Industrial Base at the White House Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy. Alex is pursuing an M.A. in National Security & Strategic

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**Time is Running Out
Register Now!**

MOLLUS Congress
October 12-15
Richmond, Virginia

*Registration Form
on Page 9*



ROTC Award Recipients Recognized

Commanderies award medals to 41 outstanding cadets.

The Loyal Legion ROTC Award recognizes worthy cadets and midshipmen for academic achievement and demonstrated leadership at some of the nation's most distinguished colleges and universities. The award ceremonies are very rewarding and many Loyal Legion Companions participate and personally present the award. The award typically

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Giordano Named Exec.Dir. of U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission

The office of the Chair of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, a federally appointed body in charge of planning and developing the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, has appointed Frank Giordano, Pennsylvania Companion and the president and CEO of the Philly Pops, as its executive director. ☘



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

As we enter the summer season and many take the opportunity for a few days of travel and vacation, we also are looking forward and preparing for the Congress in Richmond this October. We expect a full agenda with important items coming to a vote.

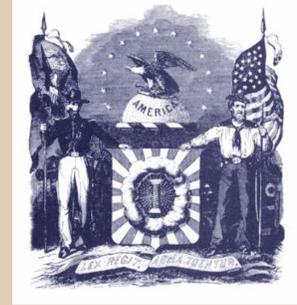
By now, all Commandery Commanders and officers should have received a survey from Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Joe Coleman. The information gathered from the survey will improve our ability to communicate throughout the Order, therefore it is essential that each commandery provide current contact information for each of their Companions. Our quest for growth as an organization and our capability to find and recruit new members is highly dependent on our communications within the Loyal Legion and the public. We are making an effort through Google to obtain a free set of Loyal Legion email addresses that will help us streamline all our business communication.

Proposed changes to our Constitution and Bylaws are being sent to all Commanderies for review and discussion as part of the Richmond Congress agenda. These changes are aimed at how we can work better and support our intent to continue to grow and thrive. As times change, some procedures must also change. It is important to have all Commanderies present and provide their views (live, electronically, or as part of your email report).

If you haven't done so already, please visit www.mollus.org. Let us know your suggestions on how our website can be improved to communicate Loyal Legion news and events, as well as any ideas you have on how we can gain the attention of prospective members. You will see minor changes to the site as we search for a volunteer who can provide the Loyal Legion with an improved and dynamic online presence.

Did you know that the Journal is available in electronic formats? You may request to have the Journal sent to you via e-mail (which is how I receive mine), this option allows you to receive your issue weeks before it arrives from the post office. Send Journal Editor Shawn Beyer an email (shawnbeyer1@verizon.net) with your request. For those of us who regularly use the Internet, a downloadable version of the Journal is also available on www.mollus.org as the paper edition goes to press. Of course, we will never do away with the printed Journal as there are many who prize keeping and collecting each copy. As we progress with sending the Journal via email, we are also planning to send electronic copies to all members of Congress, and to governors and state legislatures as each state or regional Commandery may request. Our main effort here will be to organize an emailing list that will send these copies at the push of a button. Volunteers and suggestions that will help in moving forward this initiative are welcome and can be sent to my personal email address eric@er-x.com.

— Colonel Eric A. Rojo



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Hereditary Companions

Michael Scott Lewis Kerns, 22733 PA
2nd Lt. Henry Eckenroth,
Co E, 124th USCT

Alexander Barton Gray, 22734 PA
Capt. Duane Merritt Greene,
Co E, 6th CA Vol. Inf.

William Rutherford Firth, III, 22735 PA
1st Lt. John Nice, Co H, 99th PA Vol. Inf.

Amb. Michael Brackett Smith 22736 PA
Capt. Christian Edmond Smith, USMC,
22737 PA
Alexander Hurd Ricker,
Reg. Q-master, 91st OH Vol. Inf., 1st Lt.
Co. H, 91st OH Vol. Inf., Capt. Co. D, 2nd
WV Vol. Cav., Staff of Brig. Gen. Alfred
Napoleon Duffie

Michael Wiggin Morrison, 22738 IN
Lt. Joseph Cogswell Wiggin,
Co H, 3rd NH Vol. Inf.

James Edgar Murphy, 22739 DC
Rufus Saxon,
BG BvtMG USV, MOLLUS 02467

Associate Companions

Gary Lyle Dycus A313 NY
Noah Edward Meyers A314 PA
Daniel J. F. Lupia A315 PA
Kyle Lee Miller A316 PA
Patrick McConnell A317 OH ❁



LOYAL LEGION
HISTORICAL JOURNAL

VOL. 75, NO. 3

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). 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.

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Customize Your Next Online Conference. Use GoTo Meeting

Loyal Legion has provided all Commanderies with free access to GoTo Meeting, an online meeting and video conferencing software package. GoTo Meeting allows users to customize their meeting page, then share a permanent link to meet anytime, with anyone. One click and they are in.

Here's how to personalize your meeting page and create a memorable first impression:

1. Sign in (for login information, contact Eric Rojo at eric@er-x.com).
2. Click **Edit** next to your name
3. Choose your photo, background, and customize the URL.
4. Save it. Share it. Start it.



1. MI Companion Fred Roberts (left) congratulating Cadet Akash Burton (USA), Eastern Michigan University.
2. Recorder-in-Chief Gary Grove presents MOLLUS Medal of Merit to ROTC Cadet Domico Palma of Shippensburg University.
3. Howard University Cadet Devin Reily (left) receives ROTC Award from D.C. Companion Peter Arrott Dixon (center) and Lt. Col. Richard Greenlee, USAF.
4. Companion Peter Arrott Dixon (left) with George Washington University ROTC Award recipient MIDN 3/C Logan Metzger (center) and Capt. Gary Patenaude, USN.
5. Cadet Torres-Trujillo of Mary Baldwin College receives her 2018 ROTC award from Virginia Companion Edmund Potter.

ROTC Award Recipients

Continued from p. 1.

by the official Loyal Legion ROTC award certificate. Some Commanderies choose to supplement the award with an engraved Loyal Legion challenge coin, a copy of *Union Blue*, or cash awards.

The following are the 2017-2018 Loyal Legion ROTC Award recipients:

Connecticut

Cadet 3rd Class Kassidy Whitney
U.S. Coast Guard Academy

District of Columbia

MIDN 3/C Logan Metzger
Capital Battalion
George Washington University

Cadet Devon Reily (USAF)
Howard University

Florida

MIDN 2/C James Booth
University of Mississippi

Massachusetts

Cadet Garrett Reynolds
Liberty Battalion
Northeastern University

Cadet Madelyn Reppucci
Minute Man Battalion
University Massachusetts – Amherst

Cadet Matthew Brems
Liberty Battalion
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Cadet Shane Seekamp
Liberty Battalion
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Michigan

Midshipman Austin Maudlin
University of Michigan

Cadet Jonah Lanigan (USA)
University of Michigan

Cadet Jordan Case (USAF)
University of Michigan

Cadet William Gischia (USA)
Michigan State University

Cadet Akash Burton (USA)
Eastern Michigan University

New York

MIDN 3/C Alexis Stewart
Princeton/Rutgers University

Cadet Robert Farrigan (USA)
Rowan University

Cadet Nicholas Niesciore (USA)
Rowan University

Ohio

Cadet James Reinhart
Buckeye Battalion
Ohio State University

Cadet Claire M. Crawford
Flyer Battalion
University of Dayton

Pennsylvania

Midshipman 3/C James Kaatz
NROTC Steel City Unit
Carnegie Mellon University

Cadet John Stinger
Task Force Dragon
Drexel University

Cadet Sarah Dunn
Warrior Company
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Cadet Ryan M. Gutshall
Lehigh Valley Steel Battalion
Lehigh University

Cadet Matthew Winger
AFROTC – Detachment 720
Penn State Air Force ROTC

Cadet Kierra Irwin
Nittany Lion Battalion
Penn State Army ROTC

MIDN Jessica Wunderley
Penn State Navy ROTC

Cadet Ethan Dunlap
AFROTC – Detachment 750
St. Joseph’s University

Cadet Domonico Palma
Red Raider Battalion
Shippensburg University

Cadet Daniel S. O’Leary
Red Diamond Battalion
Temple University

Midshipman 1/C Stephen Garrova
UPENN Naval ROTC
University of Pennsylvania

Kenneth G. Hackett
Blue Hen Battalion
University of Delaware

Cadet Natania Feliciano
Royal Warriors
University of Scranton

Cadet Samantha Bretz
Continental Line Battalion
Valley Forge Military College

Midshipman 4/C Nicholas Woltman, USMCR
Villanova University Navy ROTC

CDT Justin Wright
Dauntless Battalion
Widener/West Chester University

Virginia

Cadet Merriwether Sales (USA)
Spider Battalion
Hampden-Sydney College

Cadet Daniel Devine (USA)
Spider Battalion
University of Richmond

Cadet Maria Torres-Trujillo (USA)
Virginia Women’s Institute for Leadership
Mary Baldwin College

Cadet Matthew Y. Chu (USA)
Revolutionary Guard Battalion
College of William and Mary



Temple Univ. Cadet Daniel S. O’Leary (right) receiving award from PA Comanion Dr. Andy Waskie

Cadet Clara Jacobsen (USA)
Revolutionary Guard Battalion
Christopher Newport University

Wisconsin

Cadet Daniel S. Brained
University of Wisconsin

Cadet Joshua Glassrein
University of Wisconsin



Book Review: Three Grant Biographies Offer Different Perspectives

Commander-in-Chief Eric Rojo

As part of an effort to properly prepare to celebrate the bicentennial (2022) of the birth of Ulysses S. Grant, one of our nation’s greatest presidents, I have been reading his memoirs as well as a few recently published books about the man: *American Ulysses: A Life of U.S. Grant*, by Ronald C. White; *Grant*, by Ron Chernow; and *Grant Under Fire: An Exposé of Generalship & Character in the American Civil War*, by Joseph Rose.

Grant was the instrument that carried out President Lincoln’s vision, both during and after the War. First, Grant helped to keep the Union together by bringing the War of the Rebellion to an end. Then, as Commanding General of the Army under obstructionist President Johnson, Grant forced Reconstruction and the enforcement of the rights and citizenship granted to the former slaves by fighting the emerging KKK and enforcing marshal law to stop the violations by the southern states as they reorganized their governments. Later, as president, Grant was instrumental in ensuring that no former Confederate state was granted full reentry to the Union until they kept to the new Constitutional Amendments granting citizenship and voting rights, as well as participation in local and state governments to all former slaves.

All three books give different perspectives of Grant’s life and accomplishments. The book by Rose (with whom I had a long phone conversation some time back and agreed to invite him to a debate at one of our Loyal Legion events) is intent on a full character assassination of Grant, following closely the attacks he endured by the press in his lifetime. The books by White and Chernow are more consistent in their narrative and both fill some spaces not fully developed by Rose. Grant’s memoirs help corroborate or put into question some of the opinions by both authors.

All three authors address Grant’s drinking in varying degrees. While we can accept that Grant, like many other great and no so great men, may have had an occasional affair with alcohol, the Chernow book shows an undue obsession with the subject to the point that it interrupts many compelling passages with the inclusion of one drinking event (real or invented). If Grant’s drinking habit is true, Chernow should have dealt with it in one chapter and moved on with the story. One is left with the impression that the author wants us to end the book convinced that Grant was a regular drunkard, something that does not seem to bear out as such.

The deeds and accomplishments of General and President Grant must loom high and foremost, and not be smeared by whatever weaknesses we all have as human beings living our lives. ☀

The Mariner's Museum and Park

The Loyal Legion Memorial Fund continues its support of the Mariner's Museum and Park in Newport News, Virginia, where visitors can explore more than 90,000 square feet of gallery space with rare figureheads, handcrafted ship models, Civil War ironclad *U.S.S. Monitor* artifacts, paintings, and much more. The mission of The Mariners' Museum and Park is to connect people to the world's waters and strives to provide an intellectual and emotional experience that is shared by generations. It's not just about displaying artifacts, but having visitors learn and feel something, while introducing them to their maritime roots. A steward of one of the world's most extensive maritime collections, The Mariners' Museum and Park is committed to the preservation and conservation of more than

32,000 objects and several million library and archive materials. It provides access to the collection through exhibitions, loans, publications, educational programs, and online media.

U.S.S. Monitor Center

Within the Mariner's Museum and Park, the U.S.S. Monitor Center is an extraordinary exhibition made up of historical artifacts and interactive displays that let you experience the fear, the awe, and the excitement that surrounded the *Monitor's* story during the American Civil War.

For more than a century, the *Monitor's* resting place in the "Graveyard of the Atlantic" remained a mystery, despite numerous searches. Finally, in 1973, a team of scientists, led by John G. Newton



The Mariner's Museum in Newport News, Virginia.

of the Duke University Marine Laboratory, located the *Monitor* while testing geological survey equipment. A second visit to the site in April 1974 positively identified the *Monitor*, lying in approximately 230 feet of water about 16 miles south-southeast of Cape Hatteras. Its recovery was completed in 2002 after more than 20 years of effort.

The Mariners' Museum was named the official repository for the Monitor Collection by NOAA in 1987. The collection consists of over 200 tons of priceless artifacts recovered from the iconic Civil War ironclad located within the boundaries of NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary. In 2007, the U.S.S. Monitor Center opened to rave reviews. The creative interpretation of original artifacts, combined with personal letters and other archival materials, has proved to be an award-winning and awe-inspiring combination.

The museum currently offers Monitor Center tours, including the exhibit, *Ironclad Revolution*. Also offered is sponsorship of the "Monitor Boys," an endeavor to honor the officers and crews of the ironclads *U.S.S. Monitor* and *C.S.S. Virginia*, and conservation and display pieces.

The 2018 Loyal Legion Memorial Fund contribution to the Mariner's Museum will be made in memory of the late Recorder-in-Chief John Kent "Jack" Kane, a life-long lover of the sea and supporter of the Mariner's Museum. ☞

TRUSTEES' CORNER

Support the Loyal Legion Memorial Fund Mission

The Loyal Legion Memorial Fund maintains itself in several different ways. First, it receives regular dividend and interest income from its invested assets. Second, it sometimes receives gifts from the estates of deceased Companions who have made provisions for the Fund in their wills or trusts. (We'll talk about that in the next issue of the Journal). Third, Companions and friends include the Memorial Fund as part of their annual charitable giving routine.

Over the past several years, the Trustees of the Fund have stressed annual gifts of cash or appreciated stock as a steady and important source of growth for the Fund. In fact, the "Campaign for 2015," timed to coincide with

the Sesquicentennial of the Order, raised a record number of dollars while also raising the visibility of the Fund and highlighting how it benefits the Order and the larger historical community.

Those gift dollars go a long way toward the Fund's missions of underwriting the Journal, supporting events like the Lincoln Death Day observance in Illinois, and aiding worthy outside organizations such as the American Battlefield Trust. When you receive the Fund's letter from Commander-in-Chief Rojo later this year, please respond generously with your tax-deductible gift. It's one of the most worthy investments you can make! ☞

Virginia Commandery

Memorial Day Ceremony

Past Commander-in-Chief Jeffry Burden participated in the National Park Service's annual Memorial Day ceremony on May 28 at Fort Harrison National Cemetery near Richmond. It was the twentieth consecutive year Companion Burden has made remarks during the ceremony.

Point of Rocks Cemetery Monument Dedicated in June

The Virginia Commandery proudly supported the creation of new monument to Civil War dead, dedicated on June 23 in Chesterfield County south of Richmond. The marker, at the site of the Point of Rocks hospital on the Appomattox River,

commemorates both Union and Confederate soldiers originally interred there in 1864-1865 while fighting raged nearby at Bermuda Hundred, Petersburg and elsewhere. Their remains were moved to Poplar Grove National Cemetery in 1867.

Virginia Companions John Grant Griffiths and Jeffry Burden represented the Order at the event. The Commandery was a major donor to the monument project which was organized by the Chesterfield, Historical Society of Virginia. A Civil War-era home, which served as a hospital building, is nearby. It is being restored by the Historical Society and will be open for tours by 2019. ❁



Point of Rocks Cemetery Monument dedicated on June 23, 2018

Pennsylvania Commandery



Newly elected Pennsylvania Commandery Officers (l to r): Brian Maloney, Commander; Will Forbes, Senior Vice Commande; Jon Sirlin, Judge Advocate; Paul Lader, Recorder; Peter Bruemmer, Treasurer; Tim Hennessey, Recorder; Bruce Barner, Council; Gary Grove, Council; Peter Kane, Surgeon; Bill White, Chancellor. Photo courtesy David Scott.

Summer Outing in Town with Loyal Legion Roots

On July 28, the Pennsylvania Commandery's summer outing was held at the home of the Commandery Registrar and his wife, Paul and Sandy Lader, located in Wenonah, New Jersey. This small, square-mile town, has a unique connection to the Loyal Legion, as it was founded several years after the Civil War by a partnership of land developers led by railroad executive and war veteran Col. William Joyce Sewell, a Medal of Honor recipient and original Loyal Legion companion (#811).

Once the plan for the town was completed and the lots were sold during the 1870s, Col. Sewell and his partners gifted to the new residents the borough's scenic municipal park, to which the Lader home is adjacent. It was indeed a privilege to convene the

Commandery's summer event at a location so closely connected to an original Loyal Legion member.



The beautiful, historic home of Paul Lader in Wenonah, NJ—site of the annual Summer Picnic. Photo courtesy David Scott



The MOLLUS gang at the Pennsylvania Commandery's Summer Picnic. Photo courtesy David Scott.

The event was well-attended with over 30 members and guests, including a number of the Commandery's new and younger members. A very good time was had by all. ❁

Commanders-In-Chief: SURVEY RESPONSE DUE

A survey was mailed to each Commander-in-Chief in July. Please respond asap so we can better understand the needs of Loyal Legion Commanderies and members. Contact Joe Coleman for additional information (drjtc30@comcast.net). ❁

133RD MOLLUS NATIONAL CONGR



OCTOBER 12-14, 2018 —RICHMOND, VIRG

Join us in richly-historical Richmond for the Loyal Legion's Annual National Congress. Tour Civil War battlefields, explore Richmond's world-class museums, and attend a memorial ceremony at the grave of Union spymaster Elizabeth Van Lew. Conduct the business of the Order and join Companions in a weekend of fun and fellowship!

PROGRAM

Friday, October 12

12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Battlefield Tour — Seven Days Campaign sites

3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Registration — Richmond Omni lobby

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Dinner — On your own

9:00 - 12:00 p.m.

Cocktail Reception — Commander-in-Chief's Suite



Saturday, October 13

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

MOLLUS meeting

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

DOLLUS meeting

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch — On your own

1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Wreath-laying at the grave of Elizabeth Van Lew and a tour of local monuments at Battlefield Park M

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Cocktail Reception

7:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Banquet and Speeches

9:30 - 12:00 p.m.

After-Dinner Party

133rd MOLLUS National Congress—Registration Form

MOLLUS/DOLLUS Congress Registration Fee
Required for all Companions, Dames and Guests
(\$55/adult; \$35 under 18)

No. _____ \$ _____

Friday, October 12

12:00 - 3:00 p.m. — Special Battlefield Tour
Meet in lobby of Omni Richmond Hotel

No. _____ FREE

9:00 - 12:00 p.m. — MOLLUS/DOLLUS Cocktail Reception
Commander-in-Chief’s Suite, Omni Richmond Hotel

FREE

Saturday, October 13

1:30 - 4:30 p.m. — Van Lew Memorial and Museum Tour

No. _____ FREE

6:30 - 9:30 p.m. – Reception & Banquet (\$65/person)
Omni Richmond Hotel
Black or White Tie or military uniform with decorations

No. _____ \$ _____

Banquet Entree choices:

Grilled Beef Tenderloin & Chicken Breast

No. _____

Herb Seared Salmon

No. _____

TOTAL \$ _____

ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Name: _____ Commandery: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Guest(s): _____

Special needs/requests: _____

Payment — Deadline September 1

Make check payable to “VA Commandery - MOLLUS” and send a copy of this form by September 1 to: Jeffry Burden, 905 N. 37th Street, Richmond VA 23223.

Hotel Information—Reserve Early!

A block of rooms has been reserved at The Omni Richmond Hotel—our official conference headquarters—for Loyal Legion Members and guests. The special rate is \$149/night plus tax on the nights of October 12 and 13. Call 1-800-843-6664 before September 14 and request the “Military Order of the Loyal Legion Congress” rate.

Several other hotels are within a short walking distance of the Omni, among them The Berkeley Hotel (804-780-1300), The Commonwealth (804-343-7300), and Hampton Inn & Suites Downtown (804-643-5400).

Questions?

Contact Past Commander-In-Chief Jeffry Burden by email (richburd6165@yahoo.com) or phone (804) 426-1355.



Camp Letterman

The Very Dregs of the Battle

Glen Hayes

The Battle of Gettysburg was fought from July 1 to July 3, 1863 resulting in 51,000 casualties. When the armies left Gettysburg, more than 20,000 wounded soldiers were left behind in field hospitals, churches, schools, private homes, and elsewhere. In the three weeks that followed the battle, the Union medical department put forth an herculean effort to ready 16,000 of the wounded to be transported by rail to hospitals in various towns and cities. However, the condition of more than 4,000 Union and Confederate wounded was too serious to travel. A decision was made that if the wounded could not be sent to a hospital, then a hospital would be brought to the wounded.

Camp Letterman General Hospital, named for Dr. Jonathan Letterman, Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac, would be set up about a mile from Gettysburg. Although the hospital would consist of tents instead of buildings, it would be run the same as a general hospital operating in a permanent structure. It would be the first general hospital located on a battlefield. Dr. Henry Janes was the medical officer in charge of all the hospitals in and around Gettysburg, while Dr. Cyrus Chamberlain was the surgeon in charge at Letterman.

Dr. Janes mandated that there would be no difference in the care of the patients. Union and Confederate wounded would be treated the same. As it was, both Union and Confederate wounded were now fighting against the same foe—death. Although some wounded were admitted to Camp Letterman as early as July 14, the official opening was on July 22. All the wounded were brought to Camp Letterman from the surrounding area. Some soldiers were in such poor shape that moving them by the springless ambulances would have proven fatal, these soldiers



Camp Letterman, 1863

were transported by stretcher. A nurse at Letterman said the line of stretchers was a mile-and-a-half long. The patients would be cared for at Letterman until they were able to be moved by rail to permanent hospitals or, as in the case of the Confederates, to prison camps.

The story of Camp Letterman is one of suffering, sorrow, death, and recovery. The wounded at Camp Letterman consisted of those with amputations, head wounds, internal organ wounds, and many other serious injuries. All in all, the wounded at Letterman were in the worst shape possible. Franklin Stokes of the Pennsylvania Militia who was a guard at Camp Letterman said he could hear the shrieks of the wounded even when he was half a mile from the hospital. A nurse at Letterman, who when describing the wounded, said “it is horrible to say, but they were literally the very dregs of the battle.” The doctors, nurses, U.S. Sanitary Commission workers, U.S. Christian Commission volunteers, and others would do their best to keep the wounded at Camp Letterman alive and get them well enough to be moved. The task was daunting. Sophronia Bucklin, a nurse at Camp Letterman described of some of the wounded in her care: “An interesting group, one section of the ward was composed of five young men who each had lost a leg in the battle. One was from Michigan,

two from Massachusetts, and two from Pennsylvania. All of them recovered, and I often have the satisfaction of hearing from one or another of them.”¹

Out of the 4,000-plus wounded soldiers at Camp Letterman, 365 soldiers (176 Union and 189 Confederate) died of their wounds in the four months Letterman was in operation.

For a period of 59 straight days, from July 25 through September 21, one or more soldiers died there. The worst day was August 15 when 17 soldiers died. Contemporary readers can get an idea of the soldiers at Camp Letterman and the wounds they suffered by considering this representative sampling:

- N.B. Hindman, 13th Mississippi, gunshot wound to the left lung and knee. Died 8/15/63.
- James Swanner, 5th Alabama, gunshot wound to head, shoulder, and hip. Died 8/15/63.
- George Case, 5th Ohio, gunshot wound to the spine. Died 8/2/63.
- Dennis Wallace, Battery I, 5th U.S. Artillery, fracture in both legs, legs amputated July 4. Died 8/2/63.

We can only imagine the thoughts of the wounded laying in the tents at Camp Letterman. They were probably similar to those held by the wounded today: the farmer who wondered how he would work his farm with only one leg or the 18-year-old with a horribly disfigured face wondering if any girl would ever fall in love with him.

Through the efforts of the Camp Letterman personnel and the will to survive of the wounded, a majority of the patients survived and eventually left Letterman. However, there are also stories of tragic mistakes. James Perrine, age 21, of the 2nd Wisconsin of the famed Iron Brigade, was wounded

on July 1. After spending three weeks in a field hospital, he was sent to Camp Letterman. After another three weeks, and well on his way to recovery, Perrine suffered a terrible misfortune. Nurse Bucklin recorded what happened to the soldier: “He became convalescent hourly and expected a furlough to go home. He had not been taken from the medicine list and one morning, as usual, took the prescription, but was soon compelled to lie down. He was seized with a deadly coldness and shivered incessantly. His muscles contracted with jerking movements and great sweat drops gathered on his cold forehead” Perrine died at 11 o’clock that morning. “The last prescription, by some awful mistake, was deadly poison and nothing could have saved him,” Bucklin wrote. “I had often heard him talk of home and friends, but do not know if they ever learned of how he died.”² When the families learned that their loved one had been wounded and sent to a hospital, they held out hope for a recovery. For the families of the 365 soldiers who died at Letterman, that hope was dashed.

Even in death the Union and Confederate soldiers were treated the same. When they died they were buried according to when they died, not by which side they fought on. Union and Confederate soldiers would be buried side by side, but mistakes were made even with the dead. Three Union soldiers who died at Camp Letterman were buried in the South as Confederates. Apparently their headboards were mistakenly inscribed or the writing had smudged where Vt for Vermont looked like Va for Virginia. These soldiers were left behind in the Camp Letterman cemetery when the Union bodies were removed because they were thought to be Confederates. They were removed along with the other Confederate dead in 1871-1873. They are:

- Frank Smith, 14th Vermont, was buried as Frank Smith, 14th Virginia, in Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond Virginia.
- John Dolson, 2nd U.S.S.S., was buried as John Dobson, 2nd North Carolina, in Oakwood Cemetery, Raleigh, North Carolina.

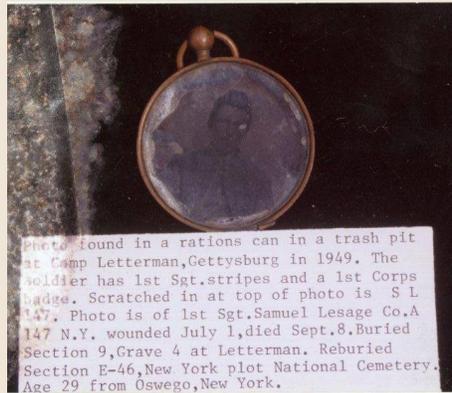


Photo found in a rations can in a trash pit at Camp Letterman, Gettysburg in 1949. The soldier has 1st Sgt. stripes and a 1st Corps badge. Scratched in at top of photo is S L 147. Photo is of 1st Sgt. Samuel Lesage Co. A 147 N.Y. wounded July 1, died Sept. 8. Buried Section 9, Grave 4 at Letterman. Reburied Section E-46, New York plot National Cemetery. Age 29 from Oswego, New York.

- Jacob Phieffer, 40th New York, was buried as J. Fifer, 4th North Carolina, also in Oakwood Cemetery, Raleigh.

The late Charles Purser of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in Raleigh conducted the research necessary to identify Dolson and Phieffer and to ensure they both have correct headstones. Researchers hope that Frank Smith will eventually get his proper headstone.³

Of the estimated eight Confederates buried by mistake in the Gettysburg National Military Cemetery, three came from Camp Letterman. They are:

- Eli Green, 14th Virginia, was interred as E. Green, 14th Pennsylvania
- John Johnson, 14th Mississippi, was interred as J. Johnson, 14th Massachusetts
- Minion Knott, 1st Maryland Battalion (C.S.), was buried as M. Knott, 1st Maryland (U.S.)

Another Confederate soldier from Camp Letterman was likely buried by mistake in the National Cemetery, George Simmons who fought with the 2nd North Carolina Battalion. He is buried in the U.S. Regulars Section (most probably in grave #2) as Unknown, 2nd US Battalion.

Camp Letterman was closed on November 20, 1863. Despite calls throughout the last 130 years to preserve the historic site, the roughly 100 original acres that made up the hospital grounds are quickly falling into the hands of developers. Only the 55 acres that comprised the core of the hospital site remain. Eight acres of land that held tents for the wounded have been successfully preserved as part of the Daniel Lady Farm by the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association (GBPA). For the past 14 years the GBPA has prevented developers from destroying the remaining 47 acres. It is the organization’s goal to preserve this area and one day incorporate it into the Gettysburg National Military Park. ❁

Glen Hayes is the Chairman of the Camp Letterman Committee for the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association.

¹Bucklin, Sophronia, “In Hospital and Camp: A Woman’s Record of Thrilling Incidents Amid the Late War.” 1869. pg. 169.

²Bucklin, Ibid. pg. 181-182.

³To see a video of a newscast with the ceremony and story behind the new headstone for John Dolson, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGrFDmIQdZ8>.

Volunteer Leadership Positions Available

National Officer Deputy. Commandery-in-Chief Officers are in need of deputies to support their areas of work and serve as a back-up when the officer is unable to attend meetings or events.

Database Administrator. A highly technical position responsible for developing a new database for the Loyal Legion, which will manage all personal and contact information using modern software and tools.

For further information, contact Commander-in-Chief Eric Rojo (eric@er-x.com).



“A Terrible Engine of Destruction”

Steven Wilson

At the end of December 1862 the Union ironclad *U.S.S. Montauk*, Captain John Worden commanding, steamed into Hampton Roads, Virginia. *Montauk* was there to join *U.S.S. Passaic* and await the eventual arrival of *Weehawken* and *Patapsco*. They would go down to Charleston, South Carolina together in the hopes of battering Fort Sumter into submission, and kick open the door to Charleston. Hanging above the captain’s cabin door on *Montauk* was a three-foot long wooden model carved from one of the timbers of John Lorimer Worden’s first ironclad command. And across the cold waters of the Roads was the humble craft that carried the scars of an afternoon’s battle that changed naval warfare forever, *U.S.S. Monitor*.

This reunion between a former captain and his famous command would go virtually unnoticed. They had both received the grateful thanks of the government and the nation for stopping the rampage of that infernal Confederate machine *Virginia* on March 9, 1862, but that glow of appreciation had faded like the warmth of a dying winter sun, and they were called for other service.

Since the departure of the critically injured Worden (the *Monitor*’s crew cheered wildly as the stretcher bearing the captain was handed off to a waiting tug), the men had seen a string of commanders. The first was the rotund William Nicholson Jeffers, who came aboard just days after the battle.

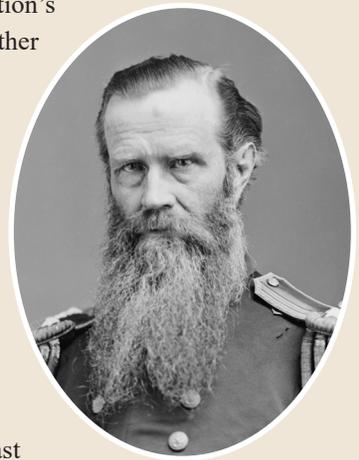
It didn’t take long for the officers and men to find that Jeffers was no Worden. “Things didn’t go as smoothly and pleasantly on board as when we had Capt. Worden,” Paymaster William F. Keeler wrote his wife. “Our new Capt. is a rigid disciplinarian, of quick imperious temper and domineering disposition.”

The inactivity that the *Monitor* and her men had to endure in the months after the battle was almost unbearable. They were, in effect, a cork in the bottle, keeping the still-dangerous *Virginia* upriver so that it would not threaten the ships in the roads. “Oh, how tedious,” George Greer, Fireman, First Class wrote. “It is as bad as States Prison, as far as the consignment is consimed (sic).” The officers were not immune from frustration brought on by endless days of waiting for something to happen. “All on board are getting tired of this life of inactivity,” Paymaster Keeler added. For the wounded Captain Worden, the inactivity came as a result of his severe wounds.

“The injury was produced in a great measure by unburned powder, minute portions of iron from the broken bar of the pilot house being driven in to the texture above his eyes,” the captain’s widow wrote in a pension application. Worden’s injury during the battle between the two ironclads did more than physical damage. “My head was all knocked to pieces at Hampton Roads,” he wrote two years before his

death. “For three months, I lay unconscious and when I woke to life again, I was a mental wreck. Since then I have never known the time when I wasn’t suffering both physical and mental pain.”

President Lincoln came to visit Worden, expressing his thanks and the thanks of the nation for his service and sacrifice. Congress would pass a joint resolution sometime later, adding their recognition. While Worden was recuperating from his wounds, the nation’s capital had another distinguished visitor. *U.S.S. Monitor*, badly in need of attention, tied off at the Washington Navy Yard in mid-morning, October 1862. She was the toast of the city—



Captain John Worden

thousands flocked to see the wondrous vessel that defeated *C.S.S. Virginia*. After a few days the *Monitor*’s crew was paid and granted leave, anywhere from two weeks to 30 days. Considering their confinement aboard the vessel during their Hampton Roads service, it was a well-deserved reward.

The *Monitor* had a new captain, John Payne Bankhead, and he came with impressive credentials. He was “a superior officer,” Flag Officer Samuel F. DuPont stated, “very prompt, crew in fine discipline...He has certainly shown himself competent as a Commander.” Bankhead was ambitious as well. “He wants an iron vessel,” DuPont added. Bankhead received his “iron vessel,” taking command of *Monitor* just before she was ordered to Washington for much needed repairs and the adulation of the multitude—led by the President himself.

By the middle of November, the *Monitor*'s repairs were completed and the little craft set sail for Hampton Roads. On Christmas Eve she received orders to move south, where she would rendezvous with other warships prior to moving against Wilmington or Charleston. She left the Roads on December 29, 1862, her departure ominously delayed by bad weather. She was as prepared for sea as any ship of her kind might be—but she was no ocean-going vessel. After a period of relatively fair sailing, *Monitor*, being towed by the steamship *U.S.S. Rhode Island*, encountered violent weather. It was no contest; the

Monitor succumbed to the fierce winds and mountainous seas of the Atlantic Ocean on the last day of December 1862.

“I am sorry to have to write to you,” George Greer informed his wife, “that we have lost the *Monitor*, and what is worse we had 16 poor fellows drown.” The *Monitor* was mostly forgotten as the war continued, but her memory was kept alive in some quarters by tokens of that remarkable vessel. One of the items was the model of the *U.S.S. Monitor*, carved from her timbers and given to John Lorimer Worden. It was acquired from Worden's daughter by Thomas F. Madigan and came to Lincoln Memorial University in 1931. Embedded in the skillfully carved model are photographs of three men: ironclad designer John Ericsson, Worden, and another man who remains unidentified.

After *Monitor*'s passing, a number of poets were moved to eulogize her. Some did so anonymously, like “S.W.,” whose “The Dirge of the Monitor” came out days after the sinking, and who sent Worden an embossed copy of the poem. Even Herman Melville felt compelled to comment on the little vessel that spawned a new kind of warfare:

*Needless to dwell; the story's known,
The ringing of those plates on plates
Still ringeth round the world—
The clangor of that blacksmith's fray,
The anvil din
Resounds this message from the fates:
War shall yet be, and to the end;
But war-paint shows the streaks of
weather;
War shall yet be, but warriors
Are now but operatives; War's made
Less grand than Peace,
And a single runs through lace and
feather.*

Melville was right; Vulcan might have been at his forge that day in March 1862 for the din of metal on metal accompanied by fire and smoke as the *Virginia* and *Monitor* circled each other warily. But the two ships were only machines, and the machines were only as effective as the crew that manned them and the officers that guided them.

*Steven Wilson is the Assistant Director/
Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Library
and Museum in Harrogate, Tennessee. ❁*

New Generation Members

Continued from p. 1

Studies from the U.S. Naval War College and earned a B.A. in International Affairs from The George Washington University. In addition to active involvement in other patriotic and hereditary organizations, including the Society of the Cincinnati and the Society of Colonial Wars, Alex is a member of the International Committee at the University Club of Washington, DC. Born and raised in Florida, Alex is engaged to be married and resides in Arlington, Virginia.

William R. Firth, III, Esq. is a descendant of 1st LT John Nice, Co. H,

99th PA Vol. Inf., who was mortally wounded on July 2, 1863, under the command of Brig. Gen. John Geary, defending Little Round Top, and died on July 3, 1863, 1st LT Nice's younger brother, Cpl. Henry Nice, 147th PA Vol. Inf. was killed in action at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863, also under the command of Brig. Gen. John Geary, defending Pardee Field. Mr. Firth is a practicing attorney who is admitted to the bars of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware and resides in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

A collateral descendant of Maj. Daniel Cronemiller, 74th Illinois Infantry, **Noah**

Meyers is a native of Centre Hall, Pennsylvania, and joins the Loyal Legion as an Associate Companion. A 2014 graduate of the Pennsylvania State University, he is employed as a Senior Labor Relations Specialist for United States Postal Service Headquarters in Washington, DC. In his free time, Noah enjoys traveling to antique stores in search for pieces to add to his tobacco tin collection and playing with his dog. ❁

Robley Dunglison Evans

Paul Davis, Michigan Commandery

Robley Dunglison Evans, “Fighting Bob” Evans (18 August 1846 – 3 January 1912), was born in Floyd County, Virginia. From the age of 10, he grew up in Washington D.C. At 13, he was appointed to the United States Naval Academy from the Utah Territory and, in October 1863, was commissioned an Acting Ensign. His Loyal Legion insignia number and the date of his commissioning are both 1863.



Robley D. Evans (left) early in his military career and as an Admiral (right). Photos from the author's collection.

The spirit that inspired his nickname in the Navy, “Fighting Bob” Evans, was first demonstrated at Fort Fisher, North Carolina, on 15 January, 1865, when, at the head of a company of Marines landed from Admiral David G. Farragut’s squadron, Lt. Robley Evans lead his landing party through heavy fire to charge the Confederate defenses.

During the assault on the palisade, a Confederate defender firing at Evans, shot him in the left leg just below the knee. Evans struggled to his feet and was one of the few attackers to get through the palisade before he was shot a second time, this time in the right knee. As Evans fell, he was struck once again by a Confederate bullet that went through his boot taking off the end of one of his toes.

Evans took careful aim with his revolver, shot the Confederate shooter and watched him fall. His small victory over his assailant was short lived. Evans was bleeding profusely. As he evaluated his unlikely future, a Marine, Henry Wasmuth from the *Powhatan*, appeared on the scene.

In Evans words, “A splendid fellow named Wasmuth, came through the stockade, quickly gathered me up under one arm,

and before the sharpshooters could hit him laid me down in a place of comparative safety; but in a moment afterward the fleet opened fire again, and the shells from the New Ironsides and the monitors began falling dangerously near us. Occasionally one would strike short and exploding, send great chunks of mud and pieces of log flying in all directions. Wasmuth again picked me up, and carrying me about 50 yards, dropping me in a pit made by a large shell. Here I was entirely protected from the rebel fire, and several times called to him to take cover, but he said each time, “The bullet has not been made that will kill me.” I was very drowsy and almost asleep when I heard the peculiar thud of a bullet, and looking up found poor Wasmuth with his hand to his neck, turning round and round, and blood spurting out in a steady stream. The bullet had gone through his neck, cutting the jugular, and in a few minutes he dropped in the edge of the surf and bled to death.”^{1,2}

When the hole Wasmuth had put Evans in begin to fill with water, Evans feared he may drown and with his hands he began to dig an exit and got out onto the beach.

Looking around, Evans saw a pile of sand nearby with a Marine firing toward the Fort. Evans called out to the Marine and asked him to help pull him behind his cover. The Marine was not convinced as the enemy firing was too intense for him to expose himself. Evans pointed his revolver at the Marine who, understanding the urgency of the matter, pulled Evans to cover and safety.

Evans was subsequently evacuated. It was also reported that following his wounding, Naval surgeons recommending amputating his legs at the knees. He drew his pistol and threatened to kill any man who attempted to do so. He then prevailed upon Congress for reinstatement after he had been invalidated out of the service.²

Robley D. Evans went on to have a long and distinguished career in the Navy rising from a Midshipman in 1860 to Rear Admiral in 1901. He served 47 years, 10 months and 28 days.

Admiral Evans retired from the Navy upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of 62 on 18 August 1908. He died in Washington, D.C., on 3 January 1912 and was buried in Section 1 of Arlington National Cemetery among other members of his family, including his wife Charlotte Taylor Evans. ✪

¹Wasmuth did not die on the beach at Fort Fisher. He was evacuated by steamer on 17 January and sent to Norfolk. Wasmuth arrived there on the morning of 21 January and was sent to the Naval Hospital. He died that afternoon.

²Robley Evans, *A Sailor's Log: Recollections of Forty Years of Naval Life*, 1901.



The Distinguished History of DOLLUS

Mrs. L. Bruce Shattuck called a meeting at the Palmer House in Chicago on May 11, 1899 to form an auxiliary to the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS). There were 51 charter members and a committee was formed to draft a constitution and bylaws of the Dames of the Loyal Legion of the United States (DOLLUS), Mrs. Shattuck, being a leader in club activities in Chicago, was elected President of the Society and held the first regular meeting on October 5, 1899.

The first state society, Illinois, made eligible for membership only wives, widows, and eldest daughters of MOLLUS Companions. In later years, the rule was changed to admit all direct lineal descendants and also the wives of MOLLUS Companions. While some MOLLUS Companions did not favor the formation of an “auxiliary,” recognition and affiliation of the Dames was formally made at the meeting of the MOLLUS Commander-in-Chief in Boston in 1915 under the chairmanship of General Nelson Appleton Miles, who also suggested that societies be formed in other states besides Illinois.

Throughout the years, several state societies were formed and later disbanded, but this does not mean that their contributions were insignificant. The New York Society placed the insignia of the DOLLUS in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. It also contributed to the tablet placed in the Washington Cathedral in honor of General Nelson Miles. In 1922, the Pennsylvania Society placed a tablet on Grant’s cabin in Fairmount Park and planted 54 oak trees around the cabin as memorials to ancestors of members. There are now 311 beautiful oaks in what is believed to be this country’s largest memorial grove. The D.C. Society, still an active chapter, restored the room in the Peterson house where President Lincoln died. Among the articles contributed by all of the state societies is the original pillow used under the President’s head as he lay dying.

Currently, there exists two state societies (District of Columbia and Ohio), and a National Membership-at-Large of the Dames of the Loyal Legion of the United States. Today, membership in DOLLUS is open to (1) lineal and collateral female descendants of the commissioned officers of the Regular and Volunteer Forces of the United States during the Civil War, eligible to membership in MOLLUS, and (2) the mothers, wives, and widows of MOLLUS Companions.

More information about membership and the history of DOLLUS can be found at www.dollus.org. ❁



ARTIFACTS

Lippert’s Portrait of Grant a Gift from Ohio Commandery

Some of the most significant items in the collection of the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum (ALLM) of Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee are inextricably linked to the Loyal Legion. One such item is a full-length oil portrait of Ulysses S. Grant in a massive gilded frame. The seven-foot painting dates from 1905 and is the work of Leon Lippert. It was commissioned by the Ohio Commandery for display in their headquarters. Lippert completed a number of other portraits for the same building.

The Commandery sent these works to LMU upon moving into smaller quarters, along with an extensive library of Civil War books. The Grant painting joined a portrait of Robert E. Lee in LMU’s Grant-Lee Hall, the oldest building on campus, which at that time housed a men’s dormitory. It is currently on exhibit in the ALLM’s third gallery.

Lippert depicted Grant in full uniform, complete with hat and overcoat, although the general himself tended to dress simply and unpretentiously while on campaign. ❁

Military Order of the Loyal Legion
 Paul Davis
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