First Bull Run

The Battle of Bull Run, which the confederates called the battle of Manassas, was the first really important action of the Civil War. The scene lay a few miles to the northwest of Manassas Junction, about 29 miles south of Washington, on the banks of the Bull Run, a small stream which rises in the range of hills barring the same name, and which runs nearly west to east, emptying in the Occoquan River.

General Irvin McDowell, who since his appointment, May 27, to the command of the newly created “Department of Washington,” had been steadily organizing the troops which, under President Lincoln’s proclamations of April 15 and May 3, kept pouring into the capitol, found himself, early in July, with an available force of about thirty-five thousand men. Nearly one third of these, however, were then about completing the three months term for which they had enlisted.

An advance upon the daily increasing Confederate forces opposing, and threatening the seat of government, had been decided upon by the war department, though it must justly be said, contrary to the better judgment of Lt. General Scott and General McDowell.

The “On to Richmond” popular cry had long resounded throughout the north, and, sharing in the general belief that an advance in force would not only prevent the meeting of the First Confederate congress, to be held July 20, but substantially end the war, pressure was exerted to the utmost, lest even the government be charged with something more than actual indifference.

Arrangements for an aggressive movement were finally completed July 15. All the divisions left camp on the afternoon of the 16th of July, the main body advancing early the following day toward Fairfax Courthouse, where it was expected the Confederates would make a stand.

General Tyler’s division, forming the extreme right wing, took the Leesburg Rd., and occupied Vienna that evening. The central column under General Hunter, entered the direct Turnpike Rd. leading to Fairfax Courthouse. Heintzelman’s division went out from near Alexandria, along the little River turnpike, and Miles’s force entered the old Braddock Rd., occupying the extreme left of the Federal advance. General Patterson’s troops, numbering about 16,000

*General Irvin McDowell*  
(Continued on page 6)
Commander-in-Chief’s Message

As my term as your 58th Commander-in-Chief comes to an end, I am pleased to report that we were able to take great strides in several areas of our Order. First, Commandery-in-Chief Proceedings for our National Congresses and our Midwinter Meetings are now available to our membership. Over the years, we have forgone the production of these documents for sketchy meeting minutes that only a few Companions would ever get an opportunity to see. Consequently, we created a situation whereby our membership was left in the dark in terms of what our national organization was doing. With the resurrection of the Proceedings and the making of these publications available on the website, our members again have an opportunity to examine the programs and progress not only of the Commandery-in-Chief, but also of our individual Commanderies. The Proceedings are available at http://sucw.org/mollus/resources/index.htm

In addition to the above, our Commandery-in-Chief’s Constitution and Bylaws were brought into the 21st Century and updated in order to reflect better how our Order actually operates. Our Order’s two governing documents also are available at the same location on our website as the Commandery-in-Chief Proceedings. A third program that was initiated, but was not as successful as I hoped, was my goal to visit all of our various Commanderies. I was able only to visit our Texas, Ohio, New York, Michigan, and Pennsylvania Commanderies.

During the last two years, we continued our participation in the annual Remembrance Day program and parade in Gettysburg, the annual Abraham Lincoln Birthday Commemoration in Washington, DC, and

(Continued on page 7)
WELCOME NEW COMPANIONS
The following Companions have joined the Military Order of the Loyal Legion since the Winter 2010 issue of the Journal. Commander-in-Chief Keith G. Harrison extends congratulations and a warm welcome to each one.

Hereditary Companions Insignia No.
Paul Thomas Davis 22554 Michigan
Frederick George Scott 22555 Pennsylvania
Bruce D. Paulson 22556 New York
Robert Michael Albert 22557 California
Paul Herbert Johnson 22558 Wisconsin.

Associate Companions
Jon Carl Sirlin A248 Pennsylvania
Donald William Shaw A249 Michigan

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

Remembering “MOLLUS” In Your Will
After you provide for your family and other matters, would you consider including a memorial gift in your will to our hallowed Order? Your gift to the Loyal Legion Memorial Fund, which is tax deductible, would be used to support the preservation of battlefields, monuments and programs that serve to memorialize the Civil War. In this way you would be perpetuating the memory of your Civil War ancestors and fellow companions.
**MI Commandery news**

Michigan Commandery report by Bruce B. Butgereit, Commander

Companions of the Michigan Commandery joined the General John A. Logan Camp No. 1, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, in the dedication of a new historical interpretive sign at Cantonment Anderson, the site of the training grounds for soldiers serving in the Third Michigan Infantry. The site was a rendezvous for the 8th Michigan Infantry, the Second and Third Cavalry, and the First Michigan Light Artillery, Batteries D and K.

The event was accorded the status of a Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Event by the National Organization of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War as it commemorated the 150th anniversary of the original departure of the Third Michigan Infantry Regiment on June 13, 1861 and the 100th anniversary of the dedication of a memorial boulder on the site on June 13, 1911. The event was well attended and speakers included the Honorable George K. Heartwell, Mayor of the City of Grand Rapids. (More about the event can be found on the Michigan Commandery website.)

On 25 June, 2011, the Commandery held its annual business meeting and luncheon at the Country Club of Detroit in Grosse Point Farms, MI. Hosted by life member William D. Dahling and his wife Nena, the Country Club provided an outstanding location for our meeting. The Country Club menu includes a most delicious mini pecan roll that has become a favorite of our Commander-in-Chief Keith G. Harrison.

The Michigan Commandery proudly presented ROTC medals to cadets at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University as well as Eastern Michigan University. Presenting the medals and certificates on behalf of the Commandery were Commander-in-Chief Keith Harrison and Commandery Senior Vice-Commander Walter F. Roberts.

*Photo: Companion Walter F. Roberts, Jr. with Cadet Katlyn Pearsall from Eastern Michigan University. Cadet Pearsall has already made five jumps as part of her airborne training.*

The Commandery continues to be an active member of the History Partners of the Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee of the Michigan Historical Commission.

At our upcoming Fall meeting on 22 October, we plan on initiating several new Companions into the Commandery.

**Ma Commandery News**

Commander Stevens and Companion Knight spoke as part of a lecture series for the opening of the Boston Public Library Civil War Sesquicentennial Exhibit. Fred Stevens covered the history of MOLLUS and displayed our new reproduction of the late 1800's Massachusetts Commandery banner. He also read some excerpts from the letters of his great grandfather, Major Atherton H. Stevens, Jr. Douglass Knight spoke about selected references which an interested person can use to establish eligibility for MOLLUS membership. The diverse audience of about 50 people asked numerous questions and expressed appreciation, including two written notes of thanks from students of history.
**VA Commandery News**

Fort Harrison National Cemetery south of Richmond hosted its annual Memorial Day program on 30 May. About 100 people gathered to watch a wreath laying and hear several speakers, including Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Jeffry Burden. He spoke on the importance of visiting and preserving military cemeteries. Attending was Virginia Treasurer David Penhallow. Also that day, Virginia Commander Richard Bishop participated in the annual Memorial Day event at Wilmington National Cemetery in North Carolina. Photo of Burden speaking by Kathleen Burden. Second Photo by Richard Bishop.

Cadet Gregory Armstrong of Idaho State University’s “Bengal Battalion” received the ROTC Medal of Merit from the Commandery-in-Chief on 30 April. Cadet Armstrong, a sophomore, was recognized for academic excellence and leadership potential. Since its start in 1951, the Bengal Battalion has provided more than 600 Second Lieutenants to the U.S. Army. This is the third year the Commandery-in-Chief has made possible an award of the Medal of Merit there. Photo is of Cadet Armstrong, courtesy of Idaho State University.

**PA Commandery News**

PA MOLLUS members participated in the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War in Philadelphia with many re-enactors in attendance. Member Joe Coleman proudly got to hold the MOLLUS flag this day.

PA members gather every year for a Gettysburg Address Party to remember the speech given by President Lincoln. At the last party Associate member Herb Kaufman spoke about medical practices of the time and how they impacted the wounded of the war. Special guest C-in-C Keith Harrison attended this dinner and updated the state Commandery on activities of the National group. Photo is a gathering of Commanders: Win Siedlarz, Joe Coleman, Adam Flint, Ben Frick & Keith Harrison.

The mid-winter event for PA celebrated President Lincoln’s 202nd Birthday at the Merion Golf Club. Speaker Dr. David Martin of “Peddie School” discussed “The wit and humor of Abraham Lincoln” and has written several books that MOLLUS members have enjoyed. In July they returned to the Merion Golf Club for a BBQ. Photo of speaker Dr. David Martin & members at BBQ.

Visit the PA Commandery’s new MOLLUS-PA website http://loyallegionpa.org For current state newsletters, membership info, and upcoming events.
men, were opposing at Martinsburg, the force of General Joseph E. Johnston, who occupied Winchester. In accordance with instructions, Patterson reached Charlestown on July 17 and remained there, holding in check, but not daring to attack, what he supposed to be a much superior force, well entrenched, and believing that Johnston could not elude him in time to meet McDowell’s attack, promised by General Scott on the 16th or 17th. This Johnston did, however, on the morning of the 18th, and, as will be seen later, succeeded in joining and cooperating effectually with Beauregard’s forces at Bull Run, which were not attacked until the 21st.

Upon arriving at Fairfax courthouse, about noon of the 17th, it was found that the enemy had abandoned the place and retired to Centreville. General McDowell, with Tyler’s division, then marched on to Georgetown, a small village about 2 miles further on the Warrenton Turnpike, where they encamped for the night, and from which place they made a reconnaissance early the following morning, which resulted in their marching thru Centreville, at about nine o’clock. They halted in a valley close by, where

the Confederates had erected strong earthworks, then held by a brigade of South Carolina troops, under General M.L. Bonham.

These, however, retired, at Tyler’s approach, to Mitchell’s Ford, in accordance with previous instructions. These instructions, which likewise affected the Confederate troops then at Fairfax Courthouse, as well as at Fairfax Station, had, strange as it may appear, be issued by General Beauregard, as far back as the 20th of June. In saying this, we bear full tribute to what Mr. Roman calls “one of the most remarkable instances, in Military history, of an order

providing fully and precisely, nearly a month in advance, for all the exigencies of a strategy movement, remotely contingent upon the operations of an enemy.”

Another reconnaissance, with four regiments of Richardson’s brigade, Ayres’s battery and a squadron of cavalry was made toward noon in the direction of Blackburn’s Ford, where General Beauregard then was, and where General James Longstreet had been posted with the First, Eleventh, and Seventeenth Virginia Regiments and two guns. Most of these troops lay concealed in the woods. The Confederate line extended some five miles, and embraced, besides Longstreet’s troops, the brigade of General Bonham, with Colonel Radford’s cavalry and Kemper’s and Shield’s batteries, at Mitchell’s Ford, and a part of Evans’s brigade, with four guns, and two companies of cavalry, at the stone bridge.

On Longstreet’s right stood General D. R. Jones brigade, with cavalry and artillery, at McLean’s Ford, and Ewell’s brigade was at the Union Mills Ford, with some Virginia cavalry and four guns, supported by Early’s brigade, with seven guns in the rear.

Ayres’s battery opened on the Confederates and the Second Michigan Regiment went forward as skirmishers. These, however, soon being engaged in severe contest the Third Michigan, Twelfth New York, First Mass, and the Second US Cavalry, were sent to support them, and were met by a strong fire from hidden artillery and infantry which compelled them to fall back.

Reinforced at once by Sherman’s brigade, in front of which stood Corcoran’s New York 69th

(Continued on page 12)
the annual Abraham Lincoln Death Day Commemoration in Springfield, Illinois. In addition, I also attended and brought greetings to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at their National Encampments that took place in Kansas in 2010 and Virginia in 2011.

At the time of this writing, we are still in the process of trying to resolve (finally) our issue of the disposition of our material and records from our old Philadelphia 1805 Pine Street Museum. There is an outside chance that this will be taken care of before the end of my term, but if not, then certainly during the term of our incoming Commander-in-Chief. Another thing that will move into the term of the new Commander-in-Chief will be the MOLLUS participation in the Cinco de Mayo Sesquicentennial Commemoration that will take place in Mexico in May 2012. This will be a unique history-making opportunity that has been afforded to MOLLUS by the Mexican government. Every Civil War uniformed member of the MOLLUS is encouraged to go to Mexico with me to represent in their Cinco de Mayo parade our County, our Order, and, by extension, our boys in blue, whose ultimate success in our Civil War was assisted greatly as a result of the outcome of the battle between the Mexican Army and the French forces that took place on May 5, 1862 at Puebla, Mexico.

Finally, as I have emphasized many times before in my messages, the Civil War Sesquicentennial is upon us. I am hopeful that all Commanderies are actively participating in this commemoration. Our whole existence is premised on the Civil War and for any Commandery not to be doing something is unthinkable. It is up to your Commandery to get involved. You will not have another opportunity like this in your lifetime to be involved in such a historical time and also to recruit members into this Order. The Commandery-in-Chief cannot do this for you. It is up to your Commandery to take the initiative.

Thank you for all your ideas and suggestions and for all the support and camaraderie afforded me these last two years. It has been an honor to serve.

Photo on page 2 SUVCW National Encampment 2011, Photo above SVR Breakfast August 13, 2011

Loyally,

Keith G. Harrison
Commander-in-Chief

Colonel James Cameron, 79th NY Infantry Regiment

“Frank Leslie’s The Soldier in our Civil War” published by Stanley Bradley Publishing Co. 1893
NY & Atlanta, Vol. I

Born at Maytown, PA, March 1, 1801; at an early age entered a printing-office, and subsequently became editor. He studied law, in the practice of which latter his high moral qualities, energy and dignified bearing soon won him great popularity.

At the beginning of the Civil War he was induced to take command of the 79th NY Highland Regiment by many who appreciated his dauntless energy and the executive ability he had displayed while at the head of a Regiment of PA militia some years before. His distinguished brother, Simon Cameron, was then Secretary of War, a post which he held until appointed minister to Russia in 1862.

The 79th Regiment, of which James Cameron was the Colonel, formed part of the 3rd Brigade, under Colonel (afterward General) William Tecumseh Sherman, belonging to General Daniel Tyler’s division. At the battle of Bull Run, it was one of the Regiments ordered from the centre to carry the heavy Confederate batteries located on the hills across the Warrenton Turnpike. Their behavior on that occasion was truly memorable. Time and time again did they assault the hills against a murderous fire, spurred on by their brave officers but to no purpose. Regiment after Regiment was hurled back, until, in the final rally, Cameron fell at the head of his men, mortally wounded.

(Continued on page 8)
Well, your Editor attempted to participate at the 150th Anniversary event of Manassas, VA. I was honored to be included in the Cumberland Guard Brigade staff as Aide-de-Camp, along side of our esteemed C-in-C Keith Harrison and member Adam Gaines. This meant a great deal to me, not only being able to begin the 150th commemorative years on the field with our illustrious Commander-in-Chief (especially since I grew up through the 125th events under his command), but also being able to portray J. P. Baker, a MOLLUS member from the Missouri Commandery. For a direct link to his information, please visit the wonderful vignette Douglass Niermeyer, PCinC has provided at http://suvcw.org/mollus/art043.htm. Unfortunately 2 days of 104 degree heat did not agree with any of my muscles that decided to spasm and 3 am Saturday morning found me missing the rest of the event while on ice at the hotel with PCC Gordon Bury! I was saddened that he and I missed the rest of the weekend, especially since he began re-enacting during the 100th anniversary events. MOLLUS members Jeffrey Burden and Richard Bishop also braved the heat to attract possible members with a recruitment stand at the Battlefield Visitor’s Center. Huzzah to all of you MOLLUS members participating that weekend, the boys in blue would have been proud of you. Over the August 27-28, 2011 weekend your Editor traveled to Jackson, MI to participate with Commander-in-Chief Keith Harrison and member Adam Gaines in the 27th annual Cascades Civil War Muster. This year’s event featured The Battle of Bethel, VA, another 150th anniversary event. MI MOLLUS member Bruce Butgereit spent the weekend manning a lovely recruitment table for MOLLUS. I received a follow up to the Ephraim E. Ellsworth article in the Summer issue from Companion and PA Recorder Jim Loudon regarding the Marshall House flag. The flag, the object of the dispute which led to the death of Colonel Ellsworth, is on display at the NY State Capitol in Albany from now until June 2012. The flag is part of an exhibit that includes the regimental standard of the 2nd NY Cavalry in which Jim’s MOLLUS ancestor, Captain Robert Loudon, served. Please visit the following website for more info: http://www.nysparks.com/newsroom/press-releases/release.aspx?r=871

Looking forward to seeing many of you at Congress in October & Remembrance Day in November. Please send me your Commandery 150th Celebrations for the next issue.

Loyally,

Robert E. Rock
The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States  
126th national Congress meeting  
Philadelphia, PA  
14, 15 October 2011

HOTEL

RESERVATION INFORMATION

The Inn at the Union League (Headquarters Hotel)  
140 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 (215) 587-5570  
(MOLLUS rate: $189.00 per night plus applicable tax)  
- Inn guests are considered temporary members and have access to all Union League facilities, including areas marked “Members Only.”  
- Full breakfast is included with the room rate for up to 2 people per room  
  (additional guests are $16.50 including tax and gratuity), served in the Founders Dining Room, located on the first floor. Breakfast Hours: M-F 7-10, S&S 8-11.  
Make your reservations by the cut-off date of 1 September 2011. Identify yourself as with “MOLLUS” to receive the group room rate.  
Parking is available at the Union League’s Parking Garage located across the street from the League at 1415 Sansom Street. The parking garage is open 24/7. Parking rates are lower if charged to a guest room. Please have parking posted to your guest room account at check in. Anyone using an alternate hotel may use this parking garage when visiting the Union League.

Alternate Hotels:

The Park Hyatt at the Bellevue Hotel  
200 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 (215) 893-1776  
Standard rooms starting @ $229.00 per night plus applicable tax.  
One block from the Union League.

Travelodge  
1227 Race Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(866)-539-0036  
Standard rooms starting @ $139.00 per night plus applicable tax.  
8 blocks from the Union League.

Comfort Inn  
53 Industrial Highway  
Essington, PA 19029  
(866)-539-0036  
Standard rooms starting @ $69.00 per night plus applicable tax.  
13.7 miles or 25 minutes from the Union League (near Philadelphia Airport).

Contacts for information and questions on the Congress are:  
Adam Flint: Adampflint@aol.com (610) 970-2787  
Tee Adams: Videoboss@aol.com (610) 688-1001
**126th MOLLUS National Congress**

**Reservation Form**

Please indicate the functions you plan to attend

Send Reservation Form & check As Soon As Possible To:

Mr. Tee Adams, Treasurer, PA Commandery, MOLLUS
PO Box 328 Devon, PA 19333-0328
Please make checks payable to “MOLLUS-PA”

videoboss@aol.com 610-688-1001

Registration Fee ………… Number attending ______ $50.00 per person $_________

(Registration Fee is required for all Companions, Dames, and Guests, children excluded)

**FRIDAY 14 October 2011**

3:00 pm **Registration** opens inside the Sansom Street entrance on the first floor.

4:00 pm **Guided tour** of the Union League ……………………………………….. No Charge

6:00 pm Dinner on your own, options include:

1.) Union League Dining Room: 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm
2.) Union League Café: 5:30 pm - 10:30 pm
3.) Varalli Restaurant (Italian cuisine): 231 S. Broad Street, 215-546-6800, two blocks South from the Union League Club House.

8:30 pm PA Host Commandery OPEN HOUSE in the MOLLUS Suite ...... No Charge

**SATURDAY 15 October 2011**

8:00 am **Breakfast** for those staying at the Union League ………………….. No Charge

8:30 am **Meeting for MOLLUS** in the Lincoln Memorial Room.

9:30 am **Meeting for DOLLUS** in the Library Lounge.

12:00 pm **Lunch and Tour of the Battleship New Jersey** Meet transportation at the Sansom Street entrance. Lunch on board the ship at approx. 12:30 pm.

(Anyone not choosing to visit the battleship may have lunch at the Union League, your lunch will be posted on your guest room account.) ………………………………………….. Number attending ______ $50.00 per person $_________

6:30 pm **Reception** with Cash Bar in the McMichael Room.

7:30 pm **Dinner** in the McMichael Room with Speaker. Black Tie or Uniform with Decorations ……… Number attending _____ $65.00 per person $_________

10:15 pm PA Host Commandery OPEN HOUSE in the MOLLUS Suite ...... No Charge

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** (If attending all functions this should be $165.00) $_________

Name: _____________________________________________ _____________________________________________

Phone: ____________________________________________ Commandery_____________________________

Additional Names in your party:

________________________________________________________________________

Address:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Email: _____________________________________________ Special Needs: ______________________________
REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS
For

THE COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF
For
2011-2013

The Standing Committee on Nominations presents the following Companions to lead the Military Order of the Loyal Legion in 2011-2013. All have been contacted and agreed to serve if nominated and elected:

Commander-in-Chief
Jeffry Christian Burden
VA

Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief
Waldron Kintzing Post II
NY/CT

Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief
Capt. James Alan Simmons
TX

Recorder-in-Chief
John Kent Kane
VA

Treasurer-in-Chief
Lee Allan Tryon
CT

Registrar-in-Chief
Adam P. Flint
PA

Chancellor-in-Chief
Col. Eric Armando Rojo
DC

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

Chaplain-in-Chief
The Rev. Canon Robert G. Carroon
CT/WI

Surgeon-in-Chief
Daniel Henry Heller M.D.
IN

Members of the Council-in-Chief
Major Richard D. Bishop
VA
Bruce B. Butgereit
MI
Peter Arrott Dixon
DC
Paul Joseph Kinyon
IL
Greg Anthony Mierka
RI
Colonel Robert D. Pollock
DC

The Committee on Nominations is composed of all Past Commanders in Chief.

Loyally
Robert Girard Carroon, Chairman
Past Commander-in-Chief

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with MOLLUS May 2012...information coming soon!

Cinco de Mayo (Spanish for “fifth of May”) is a holiday held on May 5. It is celebrated nationwide in the United States and regionally in Mexico, primarily in the state of Puebla, where the holiday is called El Día de la Batalla de Puebla (English: The Day of the Battle of Puebla). The date is observed in the United States as a celebration of Mexican heritage and pride, and to commemorate the cause of freedom and democracy during the first years of the American Civil War. In the state of Puebla, the date is observed to commemorate the Mexican army’s unlikely victory over French forces at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, under the leadership of General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín.

Some historians have argued that France’s real goal was to help break up the American Union, at the time in the midst of a civil war, by helping the southern Confederacy: “The Mexicans had won a great victory that kept Napoleon III from supplying the confederate rebels for another year, allowing the United States to build the greatest army the world had ever seen. This grand army smashed the Confederates at Gettysburg just 14 months after the battle of Puebla, essentially ending the Civil War.” The consequence of Cinco de Mayo to the United States has been thus recognized: “The defeat of the French army had consequences for America as well...the French defeat denied Napoleon III the opportunity to resupply the Confederate rebels for another year.”

Information found on www.wikipedia.org
regiment, they again advanced on Longstreet’s position, which had, meanwhile, received the assistance of Early’s brigade.

The fight continued fiercely till after 4:00, when General McDowell ordered a retreat to Centreville, having found, by an extended reconnaissance, that his intended movement on the enemies left would be impracticable.

The total Confederate loss was reported at 70; that of the Federals being 83 killed, wounded and missing.

The time was fast approaching when many of McDowell’s troops would expire, and he felt, besides, the necessity for a vigorous and prospective final attack, which, he thought, could be most successfully carried out by isolating Beauregard’s forces through the seizure of the Manassas Gap Railway. He concentrated all his troops about Centreville, and kept up reconnaissance’s all the 19th, with the view of renewing the attack the day following, but was not then in a position to advance, by reason of the needed supplies not reaching him as expected.

McDowell’s forces on the evening of July 20th, not counting the 5,000 reserve of NJ Regiments under General Runyon, stationed back of Centreville, was about 28,000 men, with 49 cannon, the 4th PA and Varian’s Battery having completed their time of service, and returned to Washington on their way home.

The advance took place at 2:00 Sunday morning, the 21st. Tyler’s division, with Ayres’s and Carlisle’s Batteries, moved along the Warrenton Turnpike, and was to be in position at 4:00 to open fire on the Confederates at the Stone Bridge, whilst the real attack was to be made by the combined forces under Hunter and Heintzelman, who should by about that time, have completed their circuit through the forest road and across the Cub Run near Sudley Church, and been ready to fall on the Confederate rear. Miles’s division reinforced by Richardson’s Brigade, was to act as a reserve on the extreme left at Centreville, the brigade under Keyes remaining to watch the road leading to Manassas. McDowell now felt certain of success, as he believed in his superiority of numbers, being ignorant of the fact that Johnston’s force, instead of begin held back by Patterson at Winchester, had, as we have seen, been allowed to escape, and had already at the at time added 6,000 men to the Confederate force under General Beauregard, then representing 30,888 men and 55 guns.

By a singular coincidence, Beauregard had contemplated an attack upon the Federals at the same time, hi order for an advance upon the latter at Centreville, though for a later hour, barring the same date as that of McDowell.

The Confederate line was much the same as on July 18th. Longstreet had additional support in Barksdale’s Mississippi regiment, and in both Bee’s and Bartow’s brigades, taken from the recently arrived portion of the force under Johnston, whose other brigade, under General T.J. Jackson, was given to General Bonham. Jones had received Early’s brigade, and that under General Holmes, as well as the 1st Arkansas and the 2nd Tennessee, was given a place in Ewell’s rear.

The Island, Bull and Lewis Fords were protected by 10 companies of infantry, 2 of cavalry, and 4 guns, and Hampton’s legion was sent to the Lewis house, to aid their in case of need. The reserves were at Camp Pickens, and Evans’s brigade still held the Stone Bridge.

The fire was open by Edwards’s 5th artillery, then attached to Carlisle, under Lt. Haines, and was kept up both directly in front and by a brigade which Tyler had sent down toward the Ford to carry out the original plan. Colonel Evans, believing that a real attack had been begun upon his forces, so advised General Beauregard, and reinforcements were sent forward, especially with the object of engaging the Federal left wing at Centreville. The possibility of such a move had, however, been anticipated by McDowell, who had ordered Howard’s brigade to be ready there to assist Miles and Richardson if necessary.

It was not long before Evans’s became satisfied that the real assault would be on his flank, and at half past eight he determined to change his position. Leaving only four companies of Sloan’s 4th SC
regiment at the Stone Bridge, which he had been ordered to hold at all hazards, he took the remainder of Sloan’s Regiment and 5 companies of Wheat’s LA regiment, also 2 guns Latham’s battery and, with them, occupied a position on the Brentsville Rd.

There, Burnside’s brigade, which had been long delayed by the difficult road it had to encounter, came up at 10:00, led by the 2nd RI, under Col. Slocum, which, with the NY 71st, Col. Martin, the 2nd NH, Col. Marston, and Griffins and Reynolds artillery at once opened fire.

This was kept up fiercely for over an hour, and tolled severely on the smaller Confederate force, until the latter was reinforced by additional guns and by detachments under Generals Bee and Bartow. This enabled the Confederates the better to maintain their position, and might have turned the tide but for the timely arrival of Sherman’s brigade, led by the NY 69th, Col. Corcoran, as well as of detachments from Porters brigade, then coming down the Sudley Springs Rd., and of the much delayed 3rd division, under General Heintzelman. This additional force soon broke the Confederate lines, compelling them to fall back upon a plateau south of the Stone Bridge.

It was now high noon. The first real engagement had resulted in favor of the Federals, leaving them in an excellent position to follow up on the vantage gained. No time was to be lost, however, in order to reap, if possible, more substantial results before the enemy could be reinforced.

The position of Howard’s brigade was unchanged. Burnside’s brigade, after exhausting it’s ammunition, had been ordered to the rear, but the brigades under Keyes and Sherman had joined the forces commanded by Hunter and Heintzelman, and, as the Confederates had been forced beyond the Stone Bridge, the latter might be crossed by the remainder of Tyler’s division.

The plateau could only be successfully commanded from where stood the Henry House, and this was the Confederates strongest position, defended by 13 guns admirably distributed, and supported by the brigades under Evans, Bee and Bartow.

In a southwesterly direction from the Henry House was a hill which, in turn, commanded the plateau. Both Griffith’s and Ricketts’s batteries, supported by the NY 11th (Ellsworth’s Fire Zouaves), were ordered to take and hold it. Before this was done, however, the Zouaves, who had advanced boldly, had been confronted by an Alabama regiment, which attacked them on the flank, while 2 companies of the Black Horse cavalry dashed upon their rear, dispersing the entire body. Then Heintzelman ordered successively the 14th NY, the 1st MN and the 1st MI to the support of the batteries, but the force every time opposed to them was too great, and they also had finally to retire, leaving behind them the batteries, the men and horses attached to which had become disabled at the very first volley.

Jackson subsequently attempted at three different times to take these batteries away from the field, but he was every time driven back by the Zouaves and by the 38th NY regiment, who finally bore them away beyond the enemies reach.

The 2nd ME, Col. Jamieson and the 3rd CT, Col. Chatfield, had, meanwhile, been ordered to silence a battery of 8 guns, which was at Robinson’s buildings,
and had been doing considerable damage. Their efforts were, however, unsuccessful. They found themselves exposed to a galling fire on all sides, and they, likewise, had to fall back.

While this was going on, Sherman’s brigade, occupied the central position, had been ordered to charge upon the Confederate batteries still on the plateau. It crossed the Warrenton Turnpike, and dashed up the hill in face of a terrific fire, alternately advancing and retreating in front of the masses hurled against it, until, repulsed for the third time, it fell back, leaving Col. James Cameron (brother of the Secretary of War), of the NY 79th, dead upon the field, and Col. Corcoran, of the 69th NY, a prisoner.

It was now after 3:00. The Confederates had succeeded in holding their position on the plateau, and had been meanwhile reinforced, mainly by the remainder of Johnston’s army, under Gen. Kirby Smith, as well as by Fisher’s NC regiment, and by part of Elzey’s brigade, with Lt. Beckham’s battery from the reserves at Camp Pickens.

The slaughter on both sides had been frightful, the loss of the Confederates including Generals Bee and Bartow, who were killed while respectively at the head of the 4th AL and the 7th GA regiments. Generals Beauregard, Stonewall Jackson (so named by General Bee before he died) and Hampton had, besides, been wounded, but remained on the field determined to make a final, united effort with the entire force at their command, now swollen to double its former proportions.

McDowell had then in advanced positions only 13,000 men, no reinforcements whatever having crossed Bull Run after noon. Burnside’s brigade, it is true, stood within call at a point leading down from Sudley Springs to Groveton, having rested since 12:00, and the brigade under Schenck remained at the Stone Bridge. Neither of them, however, were now called into requisition.

Beauregard concentrated his forces upon McDowell’s right and rear. The rear was at once fiercely attacked by Early’s brigade, while upon the flanks dashed the fresh brigade led by Gen. Elzey, with the 10th, 13th and 28th VA, the 1st MD, 2nd and 8th SC, and the 3rd TN regiments. Under this resolute and combined attack that part of the plateau which the Federal troops had just occupied was soon abandoned.

The over powering blow seemed instantaneous on all sides. The repeated efforts to rally the troops were fruitless. In a short time the entire Federal line seemed to have broken in disorder, the force under Gen. Sykes apparently alone making an effort to withstand the tide. His 8 companies of regular troops not only held the enemy in check, but maintained a bold front while covering the retreat, until, last to leave the field; they were finally compelled to yield to the masses against them.

Heintzelman endeavored to make a stand with detachments of US cavalry and Arnold’s battery, but to no purpose. A panic had apparently seized the Federals, who, abandoning everything, were now flying on all sides towards the passages leading to Centreville the route was complete.

Early’s brigade was sent in pursuit with flying artillery, likewise detachments under Stuart and Beckham, while other forces under Cash, Kershaw, Preston and Withers, Hampton’s Legion and Kemper’s battery

(Continued from page 13)
followed by the Warrenton Rd. across the Stone Bridge, which Schenck had cleared away for the passage of troops forward when the route began. The confederates continued the pursuit until the last of the Federals had found refuge beyond the Centreville ridge.

To protect the retreat, McDowell had ordered a brigade placed at the Cub Run, on the Warrenton Rd., as well as detachments under Col. Porter and Blenker, both of whom admirably filled the difficult task assigned to them.

By 9:00 that evening the last of the Federal fugitives had reached Centreville. A council was then held, at which it was decided best to continue the retreat to the defenses of Washington, and with Richardson’s brigade acting as a rear guard, the army commenced it’s march homeward before midnight, reaching Arlington Heights early in the morning.

The Confederate loss was reported to be 378 killed, 1489 wounded and 30 missing. Total 1887; that of the Federals being 481 killed, 1011 wounded, and 1460 missing, total 3051, besides 27 guns, 9 flags, 4,000 muskets, ammunition, tents, etc.

In recognition of the services rendered at the battle of Manassas by General Beauregard, he was promoted to be “General” of the Army of the Confederate States, to take rank from July 21st, 1861.

An excerpt from “Frank Leslie’s the Soldier in our civil War” published by Stanley Bradley Publishing Co. 1893 NY & Atlanta, Vol. I
All photos from “Google Images”

Transcript: Abraham Lincoln on Military Policy after Bull Run  July 23–27, 1861
Credit: Library of Congress.

July 23. 1861.
1. Let the plan for making the Blockade effective be pushed forward with all possible dispatch.
2. Let the volunteer forces at Fort-Monroe & vicinity — under Genl. Butler — be constantly drilled, disciplined, and instructed without more for the present—
3. Let Baltimore be held, as now, with a gentle, but firm, and certain hand.
4. Let the force now under Patterson, or Banks, be strengthened, and made secure in its’ position—
5. Let the forces in Western Virginia act, till further orders, according to instructions, or orders from Gen. McClellan—
6. Gen. Fremont push forward his organization, and operations in the West as rapidly as possible, giving rather special attention to Missouri—
7. Let the forces late before Manassas, except the three months men, be re-organized as rapidly as possible, in their camps here and about Arlington
8. Let the three month forces, who decline to enter the longer service, be discharged as rapidly as circumstances will permit—
9. Let the new volunteer forces be brought forward as fast as possible; and especially into the camps on the two sides of the river here—

July 27. 1861
When the foregoing shall have been substantially attended to—
1. Let Manassas junction, (or some point on one or other of the railroads near it;) and Strasburg, be seized, and permanently held, with an open line from Washington to Manassas; and open line from Harper’s Ferry to Strasburg — the Military men to find the way of doing these—
2. This done, a joint movement from Cairo on Memphis; and from Cincinnati on East Tennessee—

Taken from www.commandposts.com/2011/07/lincoln-on-military-policy-after-bull-run/
Military Order of the Loyal Legion
Keith Harrison
4209 Santa Clara Drive
Holt, MI 48842

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