FROM PUEBLA TO GETTYSBURG
A Battle that Helped Win Two Wars
Col. Eric Rojo USA (R)

The United States and Mexico emerged from their colonial periods as countries with discernible differences in language, culture, politics and customs. As such, some of these differences that tend to divide us across our common border also help to obscure the many things that in fact are shared in common by both nations and more importantly by their people. Since the arrival of the first Europeans to today’s Mexico, new words like chocolate, maize, vanilla, and many others have been added to the universal language. The dynamic that began then continues to this day when many words and concepts are interchanged, shared, and added to the languages and customs of Mexico and the United States almost on a daily basis. One important addition to the American lexicon is "Cinco-de-mayo".

What is “Cinco-de-mayo”...? It's FIESTA time! And if it’s FIESTA time, it must involve Tacos, Fajitas, Salsa, Mariachis, Tequila, Corona, Dos Equis and, most importantly, great fun with our AMIGOS. Too many times it is thought to be Mexican Independence day, the Mexican 4th of July; some friends simply refer to is as Cuervo day. To most Mexican-Americans and Mexicans who live in the US, it is a day to remember and re-affirm our heritage and share with pride our participation and contributions to this great society; to many it is the remembrance of an epic battle that took place on the 5th of May, 1862 in the City of Puebla de los Angeles, where the Mexican Army defeated the French Army. With exception of its being Mexican Independence Day, all other reasons to celebrate are right. And while "Cinco-de-mayo" is not the celebration of independence, it most certainly represents the re-affirmation of Mexico's independence. How can one battle, fought in one day, have such significance, not only for Mexico, but for the United States? And how is it associated with the United States’ epic experience at the Battle of Gettysburg?

The events of the nineteenth century shaped and defined the destiny of both young nations. In the early nineteenth century, while Mexico declared independence from the Spanish tyrant and abolished slavery, the United States fought and defeated an invasion by the British, reaffirming its status as an independent nation. These events, along with the Declaration of Independence by the majority of the Spanish colonies in America, give origin to the Monroe Doctrine: "America for Americans," a definitive

(Continued on page 12)
As I write this, the Loyal Legion has just finished another productive February meeting in Washington, D.C. Once more we gathered to do the Order’s business, and just as importantly, to pay tribute to Abraham Lincoln as part of the annual birthday ceremony at his memorial. Thanks go to the District of Columbia Commandery, and to the Lincoln Birthday National Commemorative Committee, for the hard work of their members in organizing the events.

This meeting confirmed that our finances are strong, new applications are coming in at an encouraging rate, and our Companions are engaged in important work and are representing the Legion with distinction around the nation. Please take every opportunity you can to involve yourself in Sesquicentennial activities, and other events.

This year, the traditional outing after the February 11 meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief was to the Surratt House Museum in Clinton, Md. In the combination tavern/home, modest but lovingly-restored, the Lincoln conspirators met and planned their deeds.

As members of the Order, we are among those citizens with an interest not only in our relatives, but in the history they helped forge. I was reminded of this as we toured the Surratt Tavern and the adjoining museum building. Even in that place, far off the normal tourist track, the Museum’s organizers attempt to look at the past with an (Continued on page 6)
WELCOME NEW COMPANIONS

The following Companions have joined the Military Order of the Loyal Legion since the Fall 2011 issue of the Journal. Commander-in-Chief Jeffrey Burden extends congratulations and a warm welcome to each one.

Insignia Number///Date///Commandery///Companion

Hereditary Companions (6)
22571 IL Dale Edward Crandell
22572 PA Richard Alan McGeary
22573 MI Max Lee Waldrop, Jr.
22574 DC Quinn Crowninshield Bradlee
22575 IL Kenneth Lee Sherman
22576 NY Ryan Bradford Weddle

Associate Companions (5)
A253 IL Paul Thomas Zeien, Jr.
A254 IL Gregory Matthew Carter
A255 VA Peter Malcolm Davenport
A256 IL Jeffrey Edward Fiddler
A257 IL William P. Kreml

Col. Eric Rojo USA (R) Chancellor in Chief

Hereditary Member Recruitment

New membership represents the future of our Order. In recognition of that fact, the Commandery-in-Chief honors those Companions who recruit three or more hereditary Companions during a membership year (October 1-September 30) with the award of the Lincoln Medal. Companions who qualify for the Medal may receive the award at the Annual Congress, the Mid-Winter meeting in Washington, or the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in Springfield. Please contact the Commander-in-Chief, or Membership Committee Chairman James Simmons, for more details.

Remembering “MOLLUS” In Your Will

After you provide for your family and other matters, would you consider including a memorial gift in you 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.
**PA Commandery**

PA has started the year with a mailing to our members asking them to look for new prospects for the group. That includes their relatives, who only have a small form to fill in to apply, or associate members - friends who have an interest in what we offer. We all have to do our part to make our group grow and thrive. We have had a decent initial reply and hope for more as time goes by.

Our 1st party was a dinner February 12, at Merion Golf Club. Our speaker was Gregory J. W. Urwin who has written a number of books on our war, and has appeared in History Channel series on several different wars.

Finally, feel free to visit the PA website [http://loyallegionpa.org/](http://loyallegionpa.org/) for all the latest updates on what’s going on.

PA Records in Harrisburg: Bob Lynch has found a set of microfilms containing Records of the Companions, Commandery of the State of PA, Insignia Nos. 1-3172, April 15, 1856—feb. 15, 1935. There are 53 Rolls. Anyone wishing to access the application records of the MOLLUS Commandery of PA at the Archives in Harrisburg may access info on Fees & Directions at: [www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/ours%2c_drections—fees/3144](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/ours%2c_drections—fees/3144)

Support MOLLUS member, Paul Kinyon with participation at the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Hampton Roads:

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**Massachusetts Commandery**

The Massachusetts Commandery continued its co-sponsorship of “Lincoln Day” in Hingham, MA on February 4, 2012. Other participating organizations included:
- Society of the Cincinnati, MA chapter
- Hingham Militia Company (2d Suffolk Regiment)
- Hingham Boy Scout Troop 1 Color Guard
- Sons of the American Revolution, Gen. Benjamin Lincoln Chapter Color Guard

The ceremony commenced at the nearby “Old Ship” church, famous for continuous service as a church since 1635. We heard music of the Revolutionary and Civil War periods, followed by presentation of colors, pledge of allegiance, speakers and singers.

We then joined the parade to the town square where I presented a MOLLUS wreath at the Abraham Lincoln memorial statue.

Nearby, there was a reception for participants. Recorder Ed Welch provided a splendid display of Civil War artifacts from his family collection. That plus our new banner attracted much interest and quickly depleted our stock of Commandery brochures.

Submitted by Fred Stevens
VA Commandery News

Past Virginia Commander Clifton Potter spearheaded the placing of a Civil War Trails marker at the location of a Confederate prison in Lynchburg. The marker, on the grounds of the high school that now occupies the site, was dedicated December 4. Potter knows the site well, having attended school there in the 1950s. In addition, he is assisting the effort to create and place a memorial sculpture nearby honoring the more than 200 prisoners who died there.

Companion Potter speaks while C-in-C Jeffry Burden (left) listens during the ceremony at E. C. Glass High school.

Companion Potter helped unveil the marker during the dedication event on December 4.

OH Commandery

A MOLLUS wreath was laid for the annual birthday celebration of President McKinley in Canton, OH on January 28, 2012, by Robert Rock at the request of PCinC Karl Schaeffer. He was assisted by 29th OVI member Carl Coral with the placement of the wreath.

(Continued from page 2) CinC Message

intelligent and dispassionate eye. We learned what Mary Surratt and the others did; an easy enough story to tell. We also learned the harder, more hidden story about the world they lived in -- how it was shaped by tobacco and slavery, and what that meant to the people of that time and place. Good, solid historical interpretation sometimes seems to be a disappearing commodity. In Clinton, we were reminded that it’s still around if we look for it.

Last: many of our Companions fill multiple roles at the National and Commandery level. Pennsylvania Commander Adam P. Flint is one of these Companions, and I regret to advise that he has stepped down after more than ten years of distinctive service as National Quartermaster. He is being replaced in that role by Companion Joseph Coleman. Thanks to Adam for his diligent efforts over many years as our “go-to guy” for Legion medals and other items.

Loyal, Jeffry C. Burden, Commander-in-Chief
Continuing our selections from Frank Leslie’s “The Soldier in Our Civil War”

Reconnaissance’s made in January, 1862, by order of General Grant, having satisfied him that Fort Henry could easily be taken, if attacked promptly from the Tennessee River, he reposed to General Halleck that an advance be at once made in that direction and on the 30th of the month he received permission to make the intended movement.

On Monday, the 2nd of February, General Grant’s army, preceded by a flotilla of seven gunboats, left Cairo for Paducah, reaching the latter place the same evening. Fort Henry was at the time garrisoned by about 3,000 men under Brigadier-general Lloyd Tilghman.

Early on the 3rd of February, the gunboats had advanced to appoint about nine miles below Fort Henry, and the troops had been landed by the transports at Baile’s Ferry, subsequently encamping on a high ridge close by the river. Reconnaissance’s were duly made, both on land and by water, and on the 5th all was in readiness for the attack. The advance was to be made simultaneously the following morning by the troops and the gunboats, and the engagement was to commence at eleven o’clock. But an unusually heavy rainstorm came up during the night, and while the rising river benefited the flotilla, the muddy roads and swollen streams proved a serious obstacle to the march of the troops.

The armored gunboats, with the wooden ones in the rear, had succeeded in escaping the long-range fire of the fort by taking cover of Panther Island, in the western channel, and had opened on the batteries, finally, at a distance of about 600 yards, while Grant’s force was slowly advancing through the woods and mud; General Smith’s column in the direction of Fort Hieaman, and that of General McClemand toward a point on the Dover Road, between Forts Henry and Donelson.

The bombardment continued until near two o’clock, and was warmly responded to by Captain Taylor’s guns; but it soon became evident to General Tilghman that the enemy’s movements would, before long, render his position untenable, and while there remained a chance to save his force by a retreat to Fort Donelson, he availed of it, remaining himself in Fort Henry until all but seven of the heavy guns had been dismantled by the incessant shelling of the fleet. He then forcibly surrendered to commander Foot, who sent commander Stembel, of his flagship, and Lieutenant commander Phelps, to hoist the Union flag over Fort Henry.

General Grant’s force came up afterward, and a pursuit was ordered, but it resulted only in the capture by the Fourth Illinois Cavalry of a few prisoners and some light artillery. Colonel Lewis Wallace, of the Eleventh Indiana Regiment, was placed in command of Fort Henry, while Grant commenced his preparations for the advance on Fort Donelson.

The Federals lost two killed, and thirty-eight wounded, twenty-nine of the latter being on board the Essex, whose boiler was pierced by a thirty-two pound shot from the fort. Among the killed was

(Continued on page 10)
56th Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony

All are invited to participate in the 56th Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony, sponsored by the SUVCW and MOLLUS, commemorating the 147th Anniversary of President Lincoln’s death. It will be held at the Lincoln tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, IL at 10 AM on Saturday, April 14, 2012.

**Headquarters Hotel:** President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, 701 E. Adams St., Springfield, IL 62701. The room rate is $90.99 for single/quad. A10% dining discount at Lindsay’s Restaurant is included. Call 1-866-788-1860 for reservations and mention “Sons of Union Veterans”. Reserve your room by March 16, 2012. After this, the remaining blocked rooms will be released. **Shuttle service** will provide transportation between the tomb and the hotel.

**Wreaths** may be ordered from local Springfield florists. Instruct the florist to have the wreath delivered c/o the Lincoln Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, by 9 AM on Saturday, April 14th.

**Luncheon** will be held at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel at 12 noon. The luncheon program will feature the Battlefield Balladeers, doing songs of the era with audience participation. Luncheon cost is $28 per person. Send registration form below to:

Robert M. Petrovic, PDC
6519 Cherokee Lane
Cedar Hill, MO 63016-2527

Make check payable to “National Organization, SUVCW”. Cancellation of lunch reservations must be made by no later than April 1st.

The **Dr. Benjamin Stephenson Memorial Service**, hosted by the Dept. of Illinois, will take place at his grave in Rose Hill Cemetery, Petersburg, IL, at 3 PM. The cemetery is located on IL Hwy. 123 on the east side of town. Traveling to Petersburg from Springfield, use Hwys. 29 and 123 or 97.

For event info, go to the SUVCW web site (suvcw.org) or contact Robert Petrovic at: rpetro7776@aol.com or 636-274-4567.

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**OBSERVANCE WREATH PRESENTATION**
(please print clearly)

Organization name in full:_____________________________________________________________________
Name & title of wreath bearer:_________________________________________________________________
e-mail address:_______________________________________________________________________________
if no e-mail, home address:_____________________________________________________________________
City, State, & Zip code:_________________________________________________________________________

To insure listing in program, this notice MUST be received no later than April 1st at the address shown above.

I would like to reserve ____ seats on the shuttle bus from headquarters hotel to Tomb Ceremony and return to hotel. **Maximum of 60 seats on bus. First come, first served basis.**

**OBSERVANCE LUNCHEON**

Please accept ____ luncheon reservation(s). Please list name, e-mail address, home address & phone number of person responsible for picking up tickets at the door.

Name:_______________________________________________________ E-mail:_________________________
Address:_______________________________________________________________________________
Phone:__________________________________________________________________________________
City, State & Zip Code:_______________________________________________________________________

Pork loin ________________________ Chicken Marsalla _____________________________

Include remittance of $28.00 per person for each lunch reservation payable to National Organization SUVCW.
**Reservations must be made by April 1st and cancellations by the same date in order to receive refund.** There will be no extra tickets sold at the door. Make a copy of this form for your records and send original with remittance to:

ROBERT M. PETROVIC, 6519 CHEROKEE LANE, CEDAR HILL, MO 63016
56th Annual Lincoln Tomb Observance
Sponsored by the SUVCW and MOLLUS

OBSERVANCE WREATH PRESENTATION
(please print clearly)

Organization name in full:_____________________________________________________________
Name & title of wreath bearer:_________________________________________________________
e-mail address:_______________________________________________________________________
if no e-mail, home address:________________________________________________________________
City, State, & Zip code:_________________________________________________________________

To insure listing in program, this notice MUST be received no later than April 1st at the address shown below.
I would like to reserve ____ seats on the shuttle bus from headquarters hotel to Tomb Ceremony and return to hotel. Note: ONLY 60 SEATS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE BUS. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED. BUS LEAVES HOTEL AT 9:00AM FOR THE TOMB. PLEASE ASSEMBLE IN LOBBY.

OBSERVANCE LUNCHEON

Please accept ____ luncheon reservation(s). Please list name, e-mail address, home address & phone number of person responsible for picking up tickets at the door.
Name:_____________________________________________________________________________
E-mail:____________________________________________________________________________
Address:___________________________________________________________________________
Phone:_____________________________________________________________________________
City, State & Zip Code:________________________________________________________________
Pork loin ___________________________________Chicken Marsalla _______________________

Include remittance of $28.00 per person for each lunch reservation payable to National Organization SUVCW. Reservations must be made by April 1st and cancellations by the same date in order to receive refund. There will be no extra tickets sold at the door. Make a copy of this form for your records and send original with remittance.

MILITARY PARADE INFORMATION

Name of unit:________________________________________________________________________
No. of people attending:_________________________Phone:_______________________________
Contact person name:_________________________________________________________________
E-mail:_____________________________________________________________________________

This will insure each unit receives a streamer for their flag and all participants receive ribbons.
SEND TO:
ROBERT M. PETROVIC, PDC
6519 CHEROKEE LANE
CEDAR HILL, MO 63016-2527
Lieutenant S. B. Brittan, Jr., son of Dr. S. B. Brittan, of New York City. He had enlisted in the navy at the early age of seventeen, and had made himself a favorite, especially on board of the Essex, where he acted as Captain Porter’s aide and private secretary. While Captain Porter and young Brittan were watching the effect of the firing upon the Confederate position, a forty-two pound shot struck the lad in the head, causing his instant death. This tragic termination to a life so full of youth and hope was universally regretted.

The confederate loss was reported at ten killed and fifteen wounded, many being injured by the bursting of one of the twelve thirty-two pound guns in the fort, besides about 100 prisoners, including General Tilghman, Captain Jesse Taylor and ten other commissioned officers. The fort contained, besides its regular armament, many small-arms and equipments, a large quantity of stores, and a sufficient number of tents for 8,000 men.

**FORT DONELSON**

After the surrender of Fort Henry, General Grant ordered reconnaissance’s to be made immediately up the Tennessee River, while he located his troops on the roads leading to Fort Donelson, and while Commander Foote proceeded to Cairo to repair damages and to complete arrangements for the next expedition.

Foote, having taken with him the gunboats Cincinnati, Essex and St. Louis, there remained the Carondelet at Fort Henry, and the three wooden gunboats Conestoga, Lexington, and Tyler, which were placed in charge of Lieutenant-commander S. L. Phelps, soon reached the bridge of the Memphis and Ohio Valley railway, which crosses the Tennessee River at a point about twelve miles south of Fort Henry. Its draw was closed and its machinery disabled, but in about an hour the draw was opened, and the Tyler, being left to destroy the railroad and part of the bridge, the Conestoga and Lexington gave chase to some Confederate transports, which had been seen attempting to escape up the river. These were so closely pursued, that they were set on fire and abandoned.

The gunboats continued on their way, capturing a steamer at Cerro Gordo, two more at Eastport, and compelling the flight of a number of Confederates at Savannah, which place Phelps had contemplated attacking. After proceeding as far as Florence, Ala., where he captured a portion of the supplies on board of three steamers, which had been set afire on his approach, and where he found most of the citizens kindly disposed, he returned to his place of departure.

On Tuesday, the 11th of February, Grant called a council of war, at which it was decided to move immediately on Fort Donelson rather than wait for additional reinforcements. Part of McClernand’s division advanced the same afternoon, but the main column did not get into motion until the following day.

Grant had organized his forces, as before, into two divisions, commanded by general McClernand and Smith, and had arranged for another division to be brought by Commander Foote, and to be placed in charge of Lewis Wallace, who had been made a Brigadier-general on the day of the capture of Fort Henry. Part of McClernand’s force advanced by the Telegraph Road, and halted within two miles of Fort Donelson, while the reminder marched by the Dover Road, in the same direction with orders to unite and form the right investing wing. The other troops were to follow likewise by the Dover road, Smith being ordered to prevent the possible retreat of the confederates by the occupation of Dover, if practicable. General Wallace remained at Fort Henry.

Fort Donelson was situated on the left bank of the Cumberland River, at an elevation of about 100 feet, and mounted eight guns. Below it, at an elevation of about 30 feet, were two water batteries, containing together twelve guns.

The Federal troops met with no opposition on the way, and early in the afternoon of the 12th occupied the positions which had been assigned them, after some skirmishing, during which the Confederate pickets were driven in.

On Thursday, the 13th, Colonel Berge’s Sixty-sixth Regiment of Illinois Sharpshooters engaged the enemy’s pickets, and kept up, at a distance of about 300 hundred yards, an incessant fire, which tolled severely on the Confederate gunners serving one of the land batteries, and during which arrangements were completed for more important work. Major Cavender’s heavy guns were placed on the spurs opposing the lines of defense; Oglesby’s brigade held the extreme right, McClernand’s division came next, and Smith’s force
took the extreme left, the entire line occupying nearly four miles in length.

At about midday, Colonel Wallace was ordered to capture a battery called the Middle Redoubt, and taking with him the Seventeenth, Forty-eighth, and Forty-ninth Illinois, besides McAllister’s battery, he advanced rapidly up the hill until within forty rods of the battery, when a terrible fire from the entire line of infantry, as well as from the artillery, compelled them for a moment to fall back. They were reinforced by the Forty-fifth Illinois Regiment, then supported by Schwarz’s and Taylor’s batteries, and made rally after rally, but to no purpose, in face of the superior numbers against them, and after suffering great losses during the full hour they held their ground, they fell back to their original position.

Further to the left, the Fourteenth Iowa and the Twenty-fifth Indiana had been ordered to assault another position commanded by Cavender’s heavy guns, with the Seventh Iowa and the Sixty-sixth Illinois as a reserve. They had met with a heavy fire, and had suffered greatly, while ascending a hill amid brushwood and fallen timber, but they had succeeded, nevertheless, in gaining ground, and had maintained till night a favorable position whence Cavender’s guns were enabled to inflict serious damage. These troops were likewise called back to the positions held in the morning, though the artillery kept up a fire nearly all the ensuing night.

The water batteries had, in the meantime, been engaged by the Caroudelet, which had come around from Fort Henry, and had kept up a brisk fire until struck by a 128 pound shot, which broke her steam heater and burst in the engine-room, though, strange as it may appear, without injuring any one.

At about midnight, Commander Foote’s flotilla of six gunboats and fourteen transports arrived and landed, three miles below Fort Donelson, with about 10,000 men, comprising the third division, given General Wallace.

The delay forcibly experienced by the third division reaching its position, through a necessarily circuitous route in order to avoid the forts, rendered it impossible for the land forces to cooperate with the gunboats in an attack Friday afternoon, as Grant had contemplated. The gunboats, therefore, acted alone, aided simply by a continued desultory fire from the artillery, as well as from the Federal sharpshooters.

At three o’clock in the afternoon of Friday, the 14th, the Caroudelet opened fire on the water batteries, and was soon joined by the armored gunboats St. Louise, Flagship, Louisville and Pittsburg, supported by the wooden gunboats Conestoga, Lexington and Tyler. The object of the fleet was to pass beyond the batteries so as to enfilade them with broadsides.

Only twelve of Foote’s guns could at one time be trained against the hail that met his first attack. The Confederates were serving their pieces with singular precision, and their shots were telling severely upon the armored boats gradually approaching them, yet Foote reserved his fire until within about three hundred yards. Then the heavy guns of the fleet responded to those on sore, the fight raged fiercely, and before long the men in the upper battery were observed abandoning it, and Foots saw the wished-for opportunity to pass them. Just then, however, the Louisville was seen drifting helplessly, having had her tiller-chains cut away, and in a few moments the St. Lois herself was almost as helpless, by reason of a shot having entered her wheelhouse, destroying one of the wheels and mortally wounding her pilot.

Seeing the plight of the fleet, the confederate gunners had returned to their batteries, and, serving them with renewed energy, they soon compelled the Caroudelet and the Pittsburg to retire from the scene as the two others had done. The wooden gunboats were ordered to follow, and the engagement came to an end. It was found that the St. Louis, Louisville, Pittsburg and Caroudelet had received respectively fifty-nine, thirty-six, twenty and twenty-six shots, and that the total loss to the fleet was nine killed and forty-five wounded, including six killed by the bursting of a gun on the Caroudelet.

Commander Foote, later on, took four of his vessels back to Cairo, in order to repair damages, and to organize a still more formidable fleet, two of the gunboats being left to cover the transports, while Grant continued the investiture of Fort Donelson, and the Tyler was sent to complete the destruction of the railroad bridge about Fort Henry, in order to prevent all (Continued on page 14)
warning to European powers to stay out of the affairs of the continent. For the next 100 years, up to the events of
the Mexican revolution of 1910 and the First World
War, the major European powers made several efforts
to reassert their power or influence events in America to
suit their imperial designs.

In 1860 we find Mexico tired from almost 40 years
of internal wars (since achieving Independence in 1821)
in an effort to find its way to a better democracy. Benito
Juarez is president and is in the process of
implementing the new constitution of 1857 after
defeating reactionary forces poised against needed
reforms. The country is deep in debt and bankrupt.
Juarez declares a moratorium on foreign payments.
Spain, England and France react by sending troops to
Mexico to demand payment.

In the meantime, in the United States, Abraham
Lincoln is president and is faced with probably the most
momentous juncture in the history of his nation: the
Union is dissolved and two separate nations are
emerging. Spain and England agree to payment terms
set by Juarez. Napoleon III of France decides that it is a
great opportunity for continuing to build his empire. It
is time for leadership: Lincoln is forced to lead his
nation into its bloodiest and most destructive war in
order to preserve the Union, and Juarez is forced to face
the most powerful nation of the day in order to preserve
Mexico's independence.

Are these events a coincidence? Not at all. When
the Confederate States of America declare their
independence from the Union, they find themselves as
an agricultural country with little industry. This means
that they have to look to the European powers for their
supply of arms if they are to be successful. Likewise,
there is interest by the major European powers to
support the Confederate States; there is opportunity to
intervene in the Americas as the US is distracted; and,
they depend on Confederate cotton to keep their textile
industry running. However, the North is self-sufficient
and an industrial and agricultural power as well. The
Europeans cannot openly defy the Union or the North.
While continuing to trade with the South, they withhold
diplomatic recognition to the South until they show that
they can consolidate their claim to independence.
The union's more powerful Navy blockades the Atlantic
coast to prevent the trade of cotton and armament with
great success. Very little gets through to and from the
South.

Encouraged by Mexican Conservatives –Juarez was
a liberal- who is in Europe shopping for an Emperor,
Napoleon sees the perfect opportunity to sponsor a
puppet emperor in Mexico and be able to establish a
trade route with the Confederacy through Mexican
territory -- cotton for armaments, as well as exploit
Mexico's rich mineral resources. Napoleon knows that
the North cannot afford to stretch its naval forces
beyond the blockade of the south, nor send an army to
fight with Juarez. The French Army lands in the port of
Veracruz at the end of 1861 and prepares to move
toward Mexico City to capture the capital and the
government.

As Juarez and Lincoln fight for the survival of their
respective nations, they do not act in isolation. They
know and correspond with each other; when Lincoln is
elected president one of his earliest messages of
congratulations and commitments of support came from
President Juarez, president-elect Lincoln reciprocated
his support for Juarez’ objectives. As the difficulties
turn into armed conflict, Juarez needs arms and money;
Lincoln needs his southern flank covered. Their fates
are linked; almost every decision they make to survive
has an effect on their neighbor. In this scenario, there

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are very few resources that Lincoln can effectively
deliver to Juarez. If Juarez can successfully delay the
French while Lincoln defeats the south, then much can
be done to support the defeat and expulsion of the
French from Mexico.

In March of 1862 a French Army of 6,000 men
under the command of General Lorencez advances
towards the city of Puebla –the only real obstacle on
the advance towards Mexico City. By May 4th, the
French Army is poised to attack and take Puebla.
General Lorencez sends the following message to
Napoleon III: “WE
FRENCHMEN HAVE SUCH A
SUPERIORITY OVER
MEXICANS IN RACE, IN
ORGANIZATION, IN
DISCIPLINE, IN MORALITY
AND FEELINGS THAT I BEG
TO INFORM THE EMPEROR
THAT, AS FROM THIS
MOMENT, I OWN MEXICO”.

General Ignacio Zaragoza,
born in what today is Goliad,
Texas, planned his defense on the
hills northeast of the city
reinforcing the fort of Loreto and
converting the convent of
Guadalupe into one. The
oncoming battle confronts
professional soldiers, volunteers,
farmers, students and citizens.
The French Army is composed of
regular forces and the famed Foreign Legion; the
Mexican Army, in typical fashion of the America’s, is
a combination of regulars and citizen soldiers. The
morning of May 5th a frontal assault begins by the
French cavalry and infantry clashes, armed with
superior rifles and the most modern artillery. Within a
short period of time the French suffered some 1000
casualties inflicted by Mexican cavalry and the
contingent of local farmers in hand to hand combat.

At the end of the day, General Zaragoza reports:
"THE MEXICAN ARMY MR. PRESIDENT IS
COVERED WITH GLORY... THE FRENCH
TROOPS FOUGHT BRAVELY, BUT THEIR
LEADER FOUGHT UNSKILLFULLY".

In December 1862 a French army five times larger
marches again toward Mexico City. Gen Zaragoza had
died of typhus in September. General Gonzalez
Ortega is told to fight a delaying action -one month at
best- the new siege of Puebla begun March 16th 1863 –
it fell and surrendered May 17- two months later.

After 5demayo it takes the French one-year to occupy
Puebla. As the French can finally move and occupy
Mexico City and crown the new emperor, the Americas
break the rules again, and Juarez invents mobile
government as he simply affirms that the capture of a
city does not mean the fall of a government. The
legitimate government of Mexico is where Juarez is! For
the next four years the government moved to many
places in Mexico and at some point to US territory in
order to survive.

In Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on July 3rd 1863, the
Confederate artillery begins firing in preparation for the
final infantry action, -remembered as “Picket’s Charge” (which also
marks what is noted as “the high
water mark of the confederacy”)-
that was intended to break the
Union lines at Cemetery Hill. While
many factors affect the failure of the
charge, the fact that the artillery
fires had no effect in weakening the
Union lines is key to the final
outcome. With few guns, and more
importantly with a very limited
supply of ammunition- compounded
by its very poor quality- General
Picket’s division charges a solid
line of Union forces lined to repel
the assault. Had the confederate
artillery been fully supplied with
modern and high quality French
munitions and guns, the highly
compacted Union lines could have
been severely hit and weakened, and, would have given
a real opportunity for a successful charge and a different
outcome of the Battle of Gettysburg and possibly set the
stage for the victory needed by the Confederate States of
America to gain diplomatic recognition by the European
Powers and the military support that this implied.

In the meantime, the US has made available modern
weapons to Mexico. After the Union victory, President
Johnson send a message to French emperor Napoleon III
suggesting he leaves Mexico or else face the US. He
also authorizes General Philip Sheridan to take to
Mexico Union Army volunteers, known as the American
Legion, to help President Juarez in defeating the French.
In recognition of the support of the Union, the newly
formed Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United
States, names President Juarez an Honorary Member, an
honor bestowed only to two civilian foreign citizens.

Be it at Little Round Top in the Battle of Gettysburg
where citizen-soldiers are defending a hilltop at any

(Continued from page 12) Puebla to Gettysburg

(Continued on page 14)
Only a DOLLUS member can nominate a person (male or female) to receive said scholarship. It should be stated the relationship of the applicant to the DOLLUS member, who is writing the request for this scholarship.

Each letter must state the name, address and age of the applicant.

Please list the college or university where the applicant will attend, the year in school, the course of study, and the year the applicant is expected to graduate.

List any other activities and or awards received in school—also the applicant's Grade Point Average.

List any activity in community service and any work experience.

This letter of recommendation by a DOLLUS member is to be sent to the Chr. of the Helen Soden Brady Memorial Scholarship Fund and received by this Chr. by June 1st. If more than one person is recommended for this scholarship, the interest monies will be divided among those peoples recommended.

Ruth Marie Funck, Chairman
Helen Soden Brady Memorial Scholarship Fund.
of the line, where he came upon a greatly superior force, which had just left a ravine in Oglesby’s rear. This force he engaged deliberately, but could not overcome. He was soon forced back, as well as were the forces under W. H. L. Wallace, McArthur and Oglesby, when Thayers brigade came up, with General Wallace himself in the advance. This brigade was placed between the retiring troops and the advancing confederates, with its light artillery, under Lieutenant Wood, in a position to sweep the road along which the enemy was approaching, the attack soon followed upon the federals, the First Nebraska regiment bearing its brunt for a time; but after an active encounter, the Confederates were compelled to retire.

Soon after, General Grant ordered an advance upon the retiring force, which was done, with Colonel Morgan L. Smith’s Eighth Missouri and Colonel George McGinnis’s Eleventh Indiana in the lead, and Colonel Ross’s two Ohio regiments in reserve.

While these regiments were marching toward the ridge occupied earlier in the day, Cruf’s brigade was being taken around the base of the hill to engage the enemy’s left flank, which it did successfully by the time the ridge had been reached. The fight upon the latter was especially severe, but the position was finally gained and held during the ensuing night while the enemy remained in its earthworks.

The Confederate right had at the same time been engaged by Smith’s forces. The assault there was led by the Second and Seventh Iowa and the Twenty-fifth Indiana regiments, under cover of Stone’s Missouri Battery, supported by the Fifty-sixth Indiana, Fourteenth Iowa and Berge’s Sharpshooters. They had marched with General Smith in the immediate advance, receiving the galling fire of the Confederates unflinchingly, and when within proper distance had, without firing a gun, carried the rifle-pits with the bayonet. Night coming on, they had been unable to follow up the advantage gained, and had merely kept their position in anticipation of another forward movement the day following.

That same night, however, the Confederate generals held another council of war, at which, after a long and very bitter consultation, it was decided to give up all further contest. Floyd escaped with some of his men on board a steamer at Dover, on the way to Nashville, and was followed by General pillow, who fled to Columbia, in middle Tennessee, while General Buckner was left to arrange the terms of capitulation.

On Sunday morning, the 16t of February, as the Federals were preparing to follow up the successes of the previous day, white flags were seen floating over the enemy’s works, and soon after the unconditional surrender of the Confederates was accepted.

The fort was immediately occupied by the forces in the advance, the water batteries being taken possession of by troops landed from the Cumberland river. The capitulation embraced 13,500 men as prisoners, including Generals Buckner and Johnson, 20,000 muskets, 3,000 horses, 17 heavy guns, 48 field pieces, and a large quantity of military stores.

The federals had lost 446 killed, 1,745 wounded, and a few prisoners, who had already been taken across the Cumberland. The additional losses of the Confederates were 237 killed and 1,007 wounded.

Generals Grant, McClernand and Wallace were each promoted to a major-generalship in recognition of the services rendered by them at Fort Donelson. This is an excerpt from “Frank Leslie’s The soldier in our Civil War” published by Stanley Bradley Publishing Co. 1893 NY & Atlanta, Vol 1.

The pictures are from same publication unless otherwise noted.
NOTICE
The Spring Issue of
The Loyal Legion Journal
Will be published in June 2012

EDITORIAL DEADLINE IS
May 15, 2012

Please email all material to:
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MOLLUSJournal@aol.com

Send orders and payment to:
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Pottstown, PA 19464-6105
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Thank you for your patience.

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