The Legacy of Second Lieutenant James Gale Gilbert, 49th Illinois Volunteer Infantry
By Companion Robert J. Fagan, Colonel, U.S. Army

In the back part of lonely Knob Prairie cemetery in the downstate burg of Waltonville, Illinois, lie the remains of my MOLLUS ancestor, Second Lieutenant James Gale Gilbert, who served in Company K, 49th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He died on 26 March 1863 at the age of 29 and family lore had been that he died in battle. In researching whether or not this was true I discovered much more. The tale of the Gilbert family and my MOLLUS ancestor is truly an American epic that includes pioneering westward as the United States expanded. But it is also one of dedication to duty, liberty, freedom and brotherly devotion.

James Gale Gilbert came from a long line of Gilberts that arrived in the United States in the 1630s, settling in Massachusetts then later Connecticut and Vermont.(1) Two of his great-grandfathers, Josiah Gilbert (1750-1805) and Eli Gale (1745-1817) served in the Revolutionary War.(2) Josiah and Lois (Brooks) Gilbert (1747-1815) had nine children and the youngest, Eli Gilbert Sr. (1789-1875), was born in New Hampshire at the end of the Revolutionary War. At the age of 19 Eli Gilbert Sr. married Susannah (Gale) Gilbert (1791-1865) in Vermont. He was a clothier and merchant by trade.(3) The Gilberts were quite prolific even by pioneer standards, having at least seventeen children. Eli and Susannah Gilbert named their first son after the father. Eli Jr. was born in Vermont and was the eldest of all the Gilbert children. The entire family moved to Ohio in approximately 1819, where Eli Sr. continued in the clothing business and worked for several years in Washington County; he also ran a water mill, and in later years, “gave his attention to

(Continued on page 14)
Commander-in-Chief’s Message...

This is my final “Message” to you as Commander-in-Chief. I am pleased to say that the Loyal Legion continues to move forward with a steady stream of new Companions, with expanding participation in worthwhile events and programs, with ever-greater efficiencies in how we operate and communicate, with the promise of a secure future for the records and artifacts from our Order’s earlier days, and with a growing vision for our role in American society.

The last several months from May forward have been especially busy for me personally, with journeys to events in Ohio, Mississippi, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New York, and the District of Columbia, as well as within my home state of Virginia. I have witnessed Sesquicentennial commemorations at Vicksburg and Gettysburg, attended Commandery meetings, participated in special events organized by Companions, and spoken to the public and to our friends in the historical community about the Loyal Legion’s purpose and promise. Details and photos from some of those events are found in this issue.

One event I will note with particular pleasure was the 132nd National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, held near Milwaukee in August. I brought fraternal greetings and best wishes, and used this opportunity to make the Loyal Legion more known. As cross-membership in these two organizations

(Continued on page 11)
WELCOME NEW COMPANIONS

The following Companions have joined the Military Order of the Loyal Legion since the Winter 2013 issue of the Journal. Commander-in-Chief Jeffry Burden extends congratulations and a warm welcome to each one.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Insignia</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Commandery</th>
<th>Companion</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hereditary (7)</td>
<td>22611</td>
<td>11-Jun PA</td>
<td>Edwin Mark White</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22612</td>
<td>12-Jun PA</td>
<td>William Gammons White, Jr.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22613</td>
<td>13-Jun PA</td>
<td>Earl Gordon Stannard III</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22614</td>
<td>14-Jun PA</td>
<td>Thomas Byron Maher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22615</td>
<td>15-Jun IN</td>
<td>Stephen Robert Hofer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22616</td>
<td>16-Jun IN</td>
<td>Randall Charles Eckley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22617</td>
<td>17-Jun NY</td>
<td>Peter Scoville Wells **</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate (3)</td>
<td>A271</td>
<td>19-Jun MA</td>
<td>Perley Edward Mellor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A272</td>
<td>20-Jun PA</td>
<td>Richard Selig Meyer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A273</td>
<td>21-Jun MA</td>
<td>Robert Edmond Schecter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>** Change status from Associate to Hereditary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 either 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, 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.
Commandery News

Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Commandery April Luncheon

New York

The New York Commandery met on May 6th, 2013 for our Annual Meeting at the Squadron “A” Club in midtown Manhattan. Members, prospects and guests met for a cordial cocktail hour prior to the dinner and speaker presentation.

We were joined that evening by Civil War historian and author William B. Styple, who gave an engaging and interesting presentation on his new book, McClellan’s Other Story: The Political Intrigue of Colonel Thomas Key, Confidential Aide to General George B. McClellan. The intriguing story of McClellan’s personal political advisor both in and out of the Army of the Potomac and the man who ran the 1864 Presidential Campaign for ‘Little Mac’ was enjoyed by all attendees.

We were pleased to have in attendance Commander-in-Chief Jeffry Burden, Sr. Vice Commander Kinny Post and also in attendance Past National Commanders-in-Chief Thomas McCarter and Robert Bateman. That evening, Mr. Styple was also elected to honorary membership in the Loyal Legion in recognition of his research and authorship on topics pertaining to original members of MOLLUS and well as archival footage of Civil War veterans in the ‘golden age’ of newsreels.

This year’s MOLLUS ROTC awardees were Cadets Megan Fabrizio & Beau Lovdahl from the Princeton University ROTC program. Both were presented their awards from the New York Commandery, at the Tiger Battalion Awards dinner this past April at the Trenton Country Club.

Washington DC

"DC & MidAtlantic Commander Rob Pollock addresses the Commandery's Summer Meeting at Fort Myer.

Brigadier General Creighton Abrams III presents an update to the Companions of the DC & Mid-Atlantic Commandery on the new National Museum of the US Army. The website is www.armyhistory.com.
Michigan

Companions assembled in Lake Forest Cemetery, Grand Haven, MI on Saturday, June 15 to help clean a monument. On July 13th the monument was rededicated by the Sons of Union Veterans. Immediately following, in honor of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, staff of the Loutit Library Local History Department and the Tri-Cities Historical Museum led a special tour of graves of those soldiers who served at the battle of Gettysburg in 1863.

Ordered from a Holland marble company in February 1890, this monument has stood as a silent sentinel in the G.A.R. section of the Lake Forest Cemetery for over 120 years. From his elevated location, this Union soldier is one of the most recognized memorials in the cemetery. For many years, he has suffered from the elements and is in need of a thorough and restorative cleaning.

****************************************

Ohio

On July 20, 2013, a special 150th Anniversary Ceremony to honor Ohio’s only Civil War battlefield, The Battle of Buffington Island, was attended by several Ohio Commandery members. Ohio Commander Keith Ashley arranged for many different organizations to be represented in the wreath ceremony, and we were honored to have our Commander-in-Chief Jeffrey Burden in attendance. Many of the guests present included descendants of many of the original

Ohio Commander Keith Ashley as Master of Ceremonies.

Veterans that participated in this battle. Unfortunately mother nature did not cooperate with this lovely little ceremony, and the clouds and storms rolled in at the end of the ceremony preventing further socializing. The Ohio Commandery presented those in attendance with a souvenir ribbon.

Ohio MOLLUS and DOLLUS members with CinC Jeffery Burden.
Save the Dates!
MOLLUS National Congress 2014
in Historic Framingham, Massachusetts
October 3, 4, 5, 2014
Hosted by the Massachusetts Commandery
• Costumed ‘drawing room’ reenactments
• Visit to History Center exhibit
• Bus tour of ‘Civil War Boston’
• Dinner at Longfellow’s Wayside Inn
• Banquet at Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center
• Noted author William Martin on his book, The Lincoln Letter
• Performance of John Philip Sousa’s “Loyal Legion March”
For information and early registration: bartscriv@verizon.net

Editor’s Notes:
I was pleased to be able to attend one of the 150th anniversary event weekends in Gettysburg this past July, and spent the week with Past C-in-C Keith Harrison.

I look forward to attending the 150th anniversary of Remembrance Day this November, and hope that many MOLLUS members will attend and send photos or reflections of their experiences. The next issue will feature Remembrance Day 150th, and the anniversary event of Chickamauga, GA. Please continue to send your Commandery News, 150th photos, and any articles you’d like to share with the membership.

I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you these last 2 years, and hope to continue as your Editor.

Loyally,
Robert E. Rock

Holman S. Melcher, Company F, 20th Maine Infantry; Companion of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the U. S. (#03807)

Lieutenant Melcher commanded the color company and during the struggle on Little Round Top. He was the first officer of the regiment that charged down the rocky slope. Taken from the memoirs of Elisha Coan, 20th Maine: "Lt. Melcher conceived the idea of advancing the colors so that our line would cover our wounded & dead so that they could be removed to the rear and he asked Col. [Joshua L.] Chamberlain for the privilege of advancing his company for that purpose. Other officers joined Melcher urging a forward movement and Col. C. gave his consent. Immediately Melcher passed to the front of his company & placing himself in front of the colors ordered his men forward." In 1889, Gen. Chamberlain addressed the veterans of the 20th Maine, describing the climatic moment on July 2, 1863: "Just then the brave and thoughtful young Lieutenant commanding the color company, came up to me and said, 'I think I could press forward with my company, and cover the ground where our dead and wounded are.' 'You shall have the chance,' was my answer, 'I am about to order a charge. We are to make a great right wheel.' What he did, you who know him know. What you did, the world knows."

By: William B. Styple
[On the morning of July 3rd,] Lee and Longstreet [...] made an examination of the extreme Federal left, in hopes that another assault in that direction might prove successful; but, it being found that the Round Top had been strongly fortified during the previous night, the idea was abandoned, and Lee determined to make a supreme effort to crush the Federal centre, which had not yet been assailed.

Pickett’s fresh division of Longstreet’s corps was to make the chief attack, with the support of Pettigrew’s (late Heth’s) division on the left, where likewise stood Trimble’s (late Pender’s) division, and by Wilcox’s and Perry’s brigades, under Colonel Long, on the right, with Wright’s brigade, of the same (Third) corps, as a reserve.

By one o’clock the Confederates had completed their preparations for the attack, and the fire from one hundred and fifteen guns was directed against Hancock’s command, then embracing Newton’s first, Given’s second, Birney’s third and Howard’s eleventh corps, for the purpose of opening a passage for Pickett’s division. General H. J. Hunt, Meade’s chief of artillery, promptly brought up all the guns that could be spared about eighty in number—and an artillery duel was kept up incessantly for two hours, during which both sides experienced very heavy losses. Shortly after three o’clock General Hunt ordered the fire to cease, in order to cool the guns, replenish ammunition, and prepare for the contest at close quarters which, he justly thought, could not but soon follow.

The cessation of the Federal fire led Pickett to believe that he had silenced Hancock’s artillery, and he therefore ordered an advance to be made over the one and a quarter miles then separating the contending armies.

As they proceeded, with Garnett’s and Kemper’s brigades in the immediate front, the Confederates were at first subjected to a withering fire of solid shot, which was followed by shell and canister as they approached nearer the Federal lines. They advanced bravely, notwithstanding the sad havoc already made in their immediate front as well as upon their flank, the latter suffering greatly from the simultaneous and well-directed shelling of batteries located upon the Little Round Top.

By reason of Pickett having swerved from a direct course when about five hundred yards distant from the Federal lines, the first attack fell upon the Second corps. Gibbon’s skirmishers drove back the Confederate advance from the line of the Emmettsburg Road, and the main body reserved its fire until Pickett and Pettigrew had reached close quarters. The Confederates were then met with most destructive volleys of musketry, mainly from Hay’s and Gibbon’s men in front, and from Stannard’s Vermont troops on Pickett’s flank, as well as by a perfect storm of shot and shell continuously kept up along the whole line of batteries extending from the Round Top to cemetery Hill.

The ranks which had already bravely withstood the frightful ordeal to which they had been subjected while crossing the intervening space from the Emmettsburg Road now wavered, and when the fire from some of the Federal batteries was turned obliquely upon their flank, the entire left gave way and broke in disorder, leaving about two thousand prisoners and fifteen standards in the hands of the Federals. The wounded included General Pettigrew and all but one of the officers as of his brigade.

As Wilcox had not advanced on the right, Pickett was left alone by the retreat of Pettigrew’s force; but notwithstanding the great odds against him he advanced boldly toward Gibbon’s front line, occupied by Webb’s brigade, part of which lay in the rear of a stone wall, and the remainder behind a crest a short distance beyond. As the Confederates rushed upon them, the two regiments behind the stone wall abandoned their position, seeing which, Pickett, Kemper and Armistead scaled the wall, upon which

(Continued on page 8)
The advance of the Confederates was made with great impetuosity, and Armistead succeeded in capturing one of the Federal batteries; but this he was able to hold only a few moments, for Hancock ordered forward the two brigades of N.J. Hall and William Harrow, which engaged the assailants so fiercely as to arrest their further progress along the hill. The nineteenth Massachusetts and the Forty second New York Regiments, which had so greatly distinguished themselves the previous day at the time Humphreys’s division was attacked, had asked to be placed in the front, and greatly contributed to checking the confederate advance; but the final blow was given when Stannard’s force, having rapidly changed front, advanced against Pickett’s right flank.

There was then but little chance for retreat, owing to the narrow space necessarily occupied by the troops, and after renewed but more desperate struggles, in which Garnett was killed and both Kemper and Armistead were very severely wounded, the Confederates were forced to surrender, thus swelling Hancock’s captures for the day to about forty five hundred prisoners. Among the Federal wounded were Generals Hancock and Gibbon, the former, thought suffering greatly, refusing to allow the ambulance in which he lay to leave the field until the success of the Federals was assured. General J. Cl. Caldwell succeeded Gibbon in command of the Second Corps.

Wilcox advanced his force to the attack as soon as he learned of Pickett’s repulse, but he also was subjected to such a heavy direct and cross artillery fire, that his lines were thrown back in disorder. Just then the Fourteenth and the Sixteenth Vermont regiments, which Stannard had detached from his command, came upon the Confederate flank and rear. These were attacked so vigorously that Wilcox had to order a retreat, during which several hundred more prisoners fell into the hands of the Federals.

The day’s engagements thus came to an end. On the 4th lee abandoned all idea of renewing the conflict, sent away his sick and wounded, as well as his wagon trains and stores, by way of the Chambersburg and Hagerstown roads, and made preparations to retreat across the Potomac.

The total Federal casualties in this campaign were put at 23,186, and the Confederate loss estimated at 22,728, killed, wounded and missing.

"Invasion of Pennsylvania- Battle of Gettysburg, Friday, July 3rd, 1863."

128th National Congress of the
Military Order of the Loyal Legion
October 17-20, 2013 Lincoln Memorial University,
Harrogate, TN

Headquarters will be at the Holiday Inn Express
1252 N. 12th St. Middlesboro, KY  40965 606-248-6860
reference “MOLLUS contract beginning October 16” when making your reservation,
room rate $89.28

Be sure to book your room before October 1st when the block of rooms are released
A continental breakfast is served each morning at the Holiday Inn Express.

Thursday, October 17, 2013
12:00-4:00  Registration in Ohio Commandery Room, Holiday Inn Express
7:00 PM  Reception at the LMU Museum to explore the vaults

Friday, October 18, 2013
9:00-5:00  Registration in Ohio Commandery Room, Holiday Inn Express
self guided tours of the battlefield and area attractions
6:00 PM  Reception at LMU President’s Home
7:30 PM  Seating for Dinner & Welcome from LMU President James Dawson
8:00 PM  Dinner (semi formal)
Featured Speaker: Tom Mackie, Director of the Lincoln Museum

Saturday, October 19, 2013
8:30-12:00  MOLLUS & DOLLUS Meetings at LMU
12:30 PM  Luncheon
Featured Speaker: Keith Ashley, speaking on “Buffington Island.”
2:00 PM  LMU Museum Auditorium —open to the public—
Featured Speaker: Tim Daley, Director of the Cuyahoga County Civil War Monument, Cleveland, OH, speaking on “Prison Camps of the War, North and South.”
3:30 PM  Self-guided tour of LMU Museum
7:00 PM  Refreshments at LMU
7:30 PM  Seating for Banquet, formal attire, black tie or uniforms with decorations
VP for University Advancement, Cindy Whitt will sing.
8:00 PM  Banquet
Featured Speaker: Thomas L. Vince, Historian at Western Reserve Academy, Hudson, OH, speaking on “Morgan’s Raid in Ohio, 1863.”

A child's reduced cost menu is available upon request, as well as Vegetarian or Certain Dietary Restrictions. Contact host committee for selections.
## Loyal Legion Historical Journal

### 128th National Congress of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion
October 17-20, 2013 Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, TN

**REGISTRATION FORM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>____________________________________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>____________________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>____________________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone/Email</td>
<td>____________________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commandery</td>
<td>____________________________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Needs</td>
<td>____________________________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Registration Fee** $50.00

Total Number Attending in Your Party, including Dames or Guests

\[
\text{Number} \times \text{Registration Fee} =
\]

Number Attending Friday, October 18, 2013 Dinner ($55 per person)

Please indicate Number of Entrees: ___ \( \times \) $55.00 = ___

Number Attending Saturday, October 19, 2013 Luncheon ($35 per person)

Please indicate Number of Entrees: ___ \( \times \) $35.00 = ___

Number Attending Saturday, October 19, 2013 Banquet ($75 per person)

Please indicate Number of Entrees: ___ \( \times \) $75.00 = ___

Please complete registration form, make checks payable to “Ohio Commandery, MOLLUS” and mail to:

Gordon Bury
Ohio Commandery Recorder/Treasurer
10095 Wadsworth Rd. Marshallville, OH 44645
OhioMollus@aol.com 330-855-4251
grows, we see increasing chances to work together towards common goals. Speaking of working together: as noted in the Spring issue of the Journal, we have embarked on a working relationship with the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. Having jointly helped to fund the final restoration of Star Fort, near Winchester, Va., leaders of the two groups are now seeking to define and explore future efforts in the service of historic preservation.

In our immediate future, the 2013 MOLLUS Congress scheduled for October 17 through 20 will provide an excellent opportunity to meet new Companions, renew old acquaintances, and help set the direction of the Order. Harrogate and the campus of Lincoln Memorial University are an excellent backdrop for our meetings, and fall is the perfect time to be there. Registration information follows in this issue. Make plans to join us!

In parting, my thanks go to SVCinC Kinny Post, JVCinC Jim “Bull” Simmons, Chancellor-in-Chief Eric Rojo, and all of those national officers who have helped me discharge my duties as Commander-in-Chief. The experiences I now treasure, created everywhere from the plazas of Puebla to the green fields of Gettysburg, were usually created in the company of these gentlemen. It is reassuring to know they will continue their dedicated efforts.

I stress again one point I have made repeatedly: what we do as Companions of this Order is important. It is of value to the United States and to its citizens. We are among the proud few with a dedication to both our honored kin, and to our shared history. May we always remember that the seeds we sow in this age -- of respect for family, and appreciation for our country’s rise to greatness -- will bear fruit for generations to come.

Loyally, Jeffry C. Burden

Many of those who attended the SUVCW National Encampment on August 9 and 10 are also Companions of the Loyal Legion, all shown here in a group photo.
Speaking to the New York Commandery at its May 6 meeting. Past C-in-C Robert Bateman is at far left. (Photo: Ryan Weddle).

I joined Gov. Branstad and members of the 49th Iowa “Governor’s Own Iowa Rifles” ceremonial regiment at dinner in Vicksburg on May 24, during which I brought greetings from the Legion.

Gov. Terry Branstad of Iowa and former Gov. Haley Barbour of Mississippi place a wreath at the renovated Iowa State Memorial at Vicksburg on May 25.
On June 15, the Gettysburg N.M.P. Visitor’s Center opened an exhibit composed mostly of items from the Civil War Library and Museum. The sign states the MOLLUS connection of those items.

On June 29, the Loyal Legion and other groups presented wreaths at the Eternal Light Peace Memorial on the Gettysburg battlefield. (Photo: John Gipson)

The Eternal Light service was the first major event of the Gettysburg anniversary week.

JVC-in-C Simmons and I were honored guests on June 30 for a service at the Prince of Peace Memorial Church in Gettysburg -- called the “MOLLUS Church” because of the Legion.
agricultural pursuits.”(4) Eli Jr. married Lucy (Fairchild) Gilbert (1805-1878) in Washington County, Ohio in 1828. They were almost as prodigous as Eli’s parents, having eleven children. Little did they realize at the time that they and half their children would be early pioneers helping to settle Illinois.(5)

In 1839 Eli Sr. took his entire family to Illinois in pursuit of better opportunities cheaper land or perhaps due to the simple fact that Ohio was becoming more populous and settled. He was 50 years old and his son Eli Jr. was 30 when they started out. Four young Gilberts, children of Eli Jr. and Lucy, went with them. Hannah Melissa (1831-1883), James Gale (1834-1863), Susan Polly (1836-1919), and Eli Wilson (1838-1911) all made the dangerous trek at young ages. James Gale Gilbert was five years old and the eldest male child on the journey, because his older brother Amos Fairchild Gilbert had died at the age of five in 1834. The Gilbert family came from Ohio to Illinois, traveling by water in a flatboat that they owned, which they then sold when they reached the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers in Shawneetown, Illinois.(6)

After coming to Illinois they settled in Knob Prairie, Jefferson County, in November 1839 and put in the first window light that was ever put in a building in the area. This type of window was made from a form of wax paper and provided more reflected light than glass. The home he built was made from lumber brought from Ohio.(7) After making this harrowing trek and starting to settle a farm, Eli Jr. and Lucy had five more children in Illinois. Joseph W. Gilbert died in 1850 at the age of ten while Samuel Brice Gilbert (1841-1895), Daniel Stephen Gilbert (1843-?) and Ira Waldo Gilbert (1846-1911) lived to adulthood. One other infant died at birth. In the 1850 United States Federal Census James Gale Gilbert was 17 years old and living with nine other family members. In 1854 he married Rebecca Jane (Campbell) Gilbert (1836-1915). She had arrived in Jefferson County, Illinois, with the family of her sister in October 1852, from Fleming County, Kentucky.(8) By 1860 James Gale was 27 years old, married, and had two daughters, Drusilla (1855-1941) and Sarah (1858-1864).

(9) Their other daughter, Margaret (1860-1885), generally known as Maggie, would arrive just after publication of the census in 1860.

In the heady days of 1860 and 1861 while James Gale and Rebecca were starting a family, thousands of Illinoisans answered President Lincoln’s call to service. Illinois would eventually field over 150 regiments of infantry, cavalry, and artillery in the Civil War and contribute military supplies, food and clothing. Illinois provided 250,000 soldiers to the Union Army, ranking it fourth in terms of the total manpower in Federal military service. Illinois troops predominantly fought in the Western Theater but not exclusively.(10) One of these regiments comprised primarily of men from downstate counties, the 49th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, was organized at Camp Butler, Illinois, December 31, 1861, by Colonel William R. Morrison.(11) James Gale Gilbert answered his nation’s call and received the commission of a Second Lieutenant, leaving his young family and mustering in with the regiment during its initial organization. When he mustered he was described as 5’ 11 (tall for that era) with blue eyes, fair complexion and light colored hair. He listed himself as a farmer.(12) Soon thereafter the regiment was ordered downstate to Cairo, Illinois, preparing for riverine assaults along the Mississippi and other rivers.(13) In early
February 1862, the 49th Illinois fought in the Battle of Fort Henry in western Middle Tennessee as part of the Third Brigade of Brigadier General John A. McClernand's Division.(14) A combination of tactical audacity, speed of attack, effective naval gunfire and poor placement of the Confederate fort helped bring about the first important victory for the Union and Brigadier General Ulysses S. Grant in the Western Theater.(15) The surrender of Fort Henry opened the Tennessee River to Union traffic past the Alabama border, which was demonstrated by a "timberclad" raid of wooden ships from February 6 through February 12, 1862. They destroyed Confederate shipping and railroad bridges upriver.(16) Grant's army then proceeded overland 12 miles to the Battle of Fort Donelson, Tennessee, where the 49th Illinois was also engaged losing 14 killed and 37 wounded. Among the wounded was Colonel Morrison, the regiment’s commander.(17) The capture of Fort Donelson by Union forces opened the Cumberland River, an important avenue for the invasion of the South. The success elevated Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant from an obscure and largely unproven leader to the rank of major general, earning him the nickname "Unconditional Surrender" Grant in the process (using his first two initials, "U.S.").(18)

Having seen two major Union victories and engaged in an arduous campaign, Second Lieutenant James Gale Gilbert tendered his resignation on February 22, 1862, due to "inability to drill."(19) In addition to an illness he was suffering he may also have been wounded at one of the previous battles. (20) His letter is hand written in correct English and very good cursive script. The feelings of deep regret for leaving his men and the regiment are palpable. His resignation letter was accepted by Brigadier General Grant on February 25, 1862, and subsequently further approved by Department of the Missouri Commander Major General Halleck March 5, 1862.(21) While his regiment moved to Metal Landing and Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee, James Gale went home to Jefferson County, Illinois, his military service coming to an abrupt halt after less than four months of service. During the next year, the 49th Illinois participated in several small and large battles in Tennessee and Mississippi to include the battle of Shiloh as part of the Union’s Army of Tennessee. Almost exactly a year after his resignation James Gale Gilbert died on March 26, 1863, at the age of 29. We know from his pension paperwork filed by his wife and daughters that he died of “dropsy” which was a term used at the time for congenitive heart or kidney failure.(22)

James Gale had died, but of course, the regiment went on campaigning with the Army of Tennessee performing garrison duty in Tennessee along with guarding rail roads. After several months of this rather light duty, the 49th Illinois was ordered into Arkansas where it participated in the Battle of Little Rock.(23) Afterwards, the regiment went back to Mississippi and was subsequently assigned to the Red River expedition in May 1864, where the 49th Illinois participated in the capture of Fort De Russey, Louisiana. Shortly thereafter while engaged in the Battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, James Gale Gilbert’s younger brothers Eli W. and Samuel Gilbert mustered in to the 49th Illinois to continue the legacy of service to the regiment started by their older brother, although they were assigned to Company G and not their brother’s Company K.(24)
With the two Gilbert brothers now serving, the regiment participated in the Battles of Tupelo and Oxford, Mississippi, July through August 1864, and subsequently returned to Memphis, Tennessee. There they embarked for Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, and arrived, September 30. With six months of hard campaigning under their belt Eli and Samuel were getting used to military life in the regiment when youngest brother Daniel Gilbert also joined the Union Army in October 1864. Like all of his brothers, Daniel would see significant action, but with the 32nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry in Company I. Also in October 1864, the 49th Illinois moved to Franklin, Missouri, where they engaged Confederate forces driving them from there. The regiment moved, with the rest of the army in theater, in pursuit of Confederate General Price, engaging in small skirmishes along the way, returning to St. Louis, Missouri, November 18, 1864. The regiment, along with both Gilbert brothers, hurriedly boarded trains to arrive at Nashville, Tennessee, December 1, 1864, taking part in the battle there on December 15 and 16. By December 24, 1864, the 49th Illinois was ordered to Paducah, Kentucky, fulfilling garrison duty for the remainder of the war. (25) After approximately seventeen months of arduous service campaigning in several states, both brothers were mustered out of the 49th Illinois on September 9, 1865, at Paducah, Kentucky. They subsequently arrived at Camp Butler, Illinois, on September 15, 1865, for final payment and discharge. (26) The regiment had started at the same location four years previously with their older brother on the roles. Now, after many hundreds of miles of hard fought service and untold lists of irksome tasks and weighty responsibilities the two younger Gilbert brothers Eli W. and Samuel finished fighting for the cause of liberty that their older brother had begun in the same regiment.

But what of the youngest brother Daniel? Daniel Gilbert mustered into Company I, 32nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry in October 1864 when the regiment was posted near Big Shanty, Georgia, as part of General Sherman's forces and participated in the Battle of Allatoona, Georgia. (27) During November 1864, the regiment fired their stockade and quarters at Big Shanty and began the "March to the Sea" having been transferred to the Third Brigade, Fourth Division, Blair's Seventeenth Army Corps. By late November 1864 the 32nd Illinois reached the Ogeechee River, having traveled over 300 miles in one month. (28) On December 1, 1864, the regiment crossed the Ogeechee River and went on to assist in the capture of Savannah, Georgia. From there they campaigned in South Carolina raising their colors at the Town Hall in Columbia and quickly moving north through North Carolina fighting at Fayetteville, Bentonville, Goldsboro and Raleigh in the Tar Heel State. (29) After transferring brigades in April 1865, the 32nd Illinois marched north via Petersburg, Richmond and Alexandria, Virginia to Washington, D.C. and participated in the Grand Review of the Armies May 24, 1865, commemorating the end of the war. However, at this point military service was not over for the 32nd Illinois. On June 6, 1865 they moved westward by rail to Parkersburg, Virginia, thence by boat to Louisville, Kentucky, having been transferred to the Department of Missouri, and further moved by boat to St. Louis. Here the regiment received orders dispatching them to the far west via Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. After equipping, they marched from there and arrived August 13, 1865 at Ft. Kearney, Nebraska, where
telegraphic orders for mustering out were received returning them to Fort Leavenworth with subsequent final pay and administration in September 1865 at Camp Butler, Illinois. (30)

Daniel Gilbert continued the legacy of his three older brothers and fought across the South. He participated in Sherman’s March to the Sea, campaigned in both Carolinas and through Virginia culminating with victory celebrations in the nation’s capital only to be shipped out west for further service. This subsequent duty abruptly changed and he ended up mustering out at the same approximate time and location of his two older surviving brothers.

The Gilbert family moved from one of the first thirteen states planting seeds in Ohio before arriving in Illinois. The hearty pioneers Eli Jr. and Lucy Gilbert gave four sons to the Union cause. Second Lieutenant James Gale Gilbert did not survive the war, but two of his younger brothers Eli and Samuel went on to serve in the same regiment enduring much difficult campaigning. The third and youngest brother Daniel also served with distinction in another regiment. The Gilbert family, since well before the American Revolution, has demonstrated their dedication to duty, liberty, freedom and brotherly devotion. This was no clearer than during the American Civil War.

(Continued from page 16)

***************

2. Revolutionary service and genealogy established with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Josiah Gilbert is DAR Ancestor # A045161 and Eli Gale is DAR Ancestor # A043215.
5. Ibid.
6. Portrait and Biographical Record of...
8. Rebecca Harris (Gilbert) (Campbell) obituary, April 17, 1915 Mt. Vernon, IL Register News.
9. 1860 United States Federal Census
16. Ibid.
17. Illinois, Regimental Histories.
20. Ibid.
21. Ibid.
22. James Gale Gilbert’s pension file is over 100 pages long and has lengthy testimony from companions establishing his service and testifying to his debilitations. Such length and multiple testimonies were necessary because Rebecca remarried but their daughters were still entitled to his disability pension. Over twenty years of lengthy documentation may be accessed at: http://www.fold3.com/s.php#query=Gilbert%2C+James&t=57
24. Ibid.
25. Ibid.
26. Ibid.
27. Ibid.
28. Ibid.
29. Ibid.
30. Ibid. Throughout the Civil War the U.S. Federal Government maintained active operations throughout the West engaging various Indian tribes. At the end of the Civil War there was still a need to employ units out West.
Edwin May Byrkit was born in Indianapolis on February 13, 1839, the son of a master carpenter. He was named after Edwin May, a prominent Indiana architect. Edwin’s father came to Indianapolis in 1825 from Miami County, OH. His ancestral roots ran deep in the pacifist churches of the Swiss Brethren and Society of Friends. These church connections were severed by the time Edwin’s family moved to Indianapolis ensuring no religious impediment to Edwin’s future military service.

Undoubtedly a highlight of young Edwin’s life was being in the presence of Abraham Lincoln as he addressed a large crowd gathered in Indianapolis on February 11, 1861. Two months later he enthusiastically answered Lincoln’s call for militia to suppress the Southern rebellion. Edwin enlisted in the 11th Indiana Infantry Regiment, a Zouave unit commanded by Col. Lew Wallace.

In early June 1861, the 11th Indiana deployed to Cumberland, MD in support of the Western Virginia Campaign. Wallace chose Byrkit as one of twelve mounted scouts to serve under the command of Cpl. David B. Hay. Early on June 26, 1861, the thirteen departed Cumberland for Frankfort, VA (present day Ft. Ashby, WV) to determine the position of Confederate forces in the area. Near the mouth of Dan’s Run, just north of Frankfort, the scouting party stumbled upon a small contingent of Fauquier Mountain Rangers, eleven or twelve in number, commanded by Capt. Richard Ashby.

Hay’s Scouts chased Ashby’s Rangers down a hill toward the Baltimore and Ohio railroad tracks where the Rangers encountered a culvert cattle guard, about ten feet in depth, that prevented their horses from continuing on. After some shooting and hand-to-hand combat, the Rangers abandoned their horses and fled on foot, leaving Ashby who lay mortally wounded. Hay was also severely wounded, and two of the Scouts were sent to a nearby farmhouse to secure a wagon to transport Hay back to Union camp.

Meanwhile, the brother of Capt. Ashby, LTC Turner Ashby, learning of the skirmish, quickly rode to the spot of the encounter. He and his detachment immediately set out to destroy Hay’s Scouts. Seeing Ashby’s Rangers in the distance, the Scouts abandoned their horses and forded to Kelly’s Island where Patterson’s Creek empties into the north branch of the Potomac River. (Kelley’s Island no longer exists, having been washed away by floods.) The island was an ideal place to mount a defense, being covered with large rocks, clumps of willows, and general debris of logs, perfect for concealment.

Ashby and his men crossed Patterson’s Creek under Scout fire. The two groups engaged in hand-to-hand combat for a time, allegedly until dusk. One account recalled Ashby loudly yelling for reinforcements to come forward and attack. In fact he had no reinforcements; however, the call startled the Scouts into scattering off the island and finding their way back to Union camp under the cover of darkness.

Although the skirmish itself was minor, both sides grossly exaggerated their opponents’ numbers and casualties to claim victory over overwhelming odds. According to the official Union account, Hay’s Scouts initially encountered 41 Confederate Rangers, killing eight of them; at Kelly’s Island, they encountered 75 additional Rangers, killing 23. However, a Richmond newspaper reported the Union scouting party numbered 35-40, of whom 18-20 were killed and nine wounded. According to muster rolls, this author believes that the actual count was one Scout and three Rangers killed, one Scout and several Rangers wounded. In his report to Gen. George B. McClellan, Wallace summed up the episode as follows: “The report

(Continued on page 19)
of the skirmish sounds like fiction, but it is not exaggerated. The fight was really one of the boldest, most
desperate, and fortunate on record, and abounded in instances of wonderful coolness.” In a June 28 letter to
Wallace, Indiana Congressman Schuyler Colfax wrote that Washington is “ringing with the magnificent news
from your scouting party, though it seems too splendid to be true.”

For the remainder of his life, Byrkit repeated the accounts of this day, no doubt embellishing to full effect.
Later in life, Byrkit and Robert M. Dunlap, reportedly the last two living members of the “Gallant Thirteen”
would meet yearly to recount the episode.

On August 15, 1862, Byrkit reenlisted for a three-year term in the 79th Indiana Infantry Regiment commanded
by Col. Frederick Knefler. Due to his previous service, Byrkit mustered in as 1st sergeant. The Regiment
was assigned to the 3rd Brigade, commanded by Col. Samuel Beatty, part of Van Cleve’s Division of
Crittenden’s 21st Corps. The Regiment marched to Nashville and then to Murfreesboro, TN. It was there that
it faced some of its fiercest combat at the Battle of Stones River (December 31, 1862-January 2, 1863)
resulting in seven killed and 41 wounded.

The end of January found many men despondent and homesick. Many resigned, including company
commander Capt. John G. Waters on February 1, 1863. The reshuffling of officers resulted in promotions of
the company’s 1st and 2nd lieutenants, thus creating a vacancy for 2nd lieutenant filled by Byrkit.

The first major engagement Byrkit experienced in his capacity as officer was the Battle of Chickamauga. The
79th Regiment claimed a singular distinction in capturing Capt. William W. Carnes’ Tennessee Battery,
although it was retaken the following day. Two months later at the Battle of Missionary Ridge, the 79th and
86th Indiana Regiments led a successful charge up the center of the ridge under heavy enemy fire.

On June 23, 1864, the 79th Regiment was on picket near Kennesaw Mountain, GA when it was ordered to
advance against the enemy to ascertain its strength and position. The advance was ill advised; many were
killed and wounded, including Daniel Howe, captain of I Company. On November 10, 1864, Howe was
honorably discharged due to his wounds, and on March 1, 1865, Byrkit was commissioned captain of I
Company and, in April, reassigned to H Company.

The 79th Regiment arrived in Nashville on April 26, 1865 and remained there until June 5. During this time,
Byrkit posed for the photo shown herein at Morse’s Gallery of the Cumberland. On June 11, 1865, he
mustered out with Regiment in Indianapolis.

Later that year he married Mary Whitten. They had two sons and a daughter. Edwin and a brother joined their
father to form M. Byrkit & Sons, specializing in doors, blinds, flooring, window frames and molding. In 1885
Byrkit moved to Michigan City, IN to work at Root Manufacturing Company, a sash and door factory. He
obtained three patents covering improvements to a combined sheathing and lathe machine. He then formed
the Byrkit Sheathing and Lath Company to produce and market his product. In Michigan City Byrkit was an
active member of George V. Rawson GAR Post 46.

Several years after the death of his wife in 1892, Byrkit returned to Indianapolis and became an active member
of Maj. Robert Anderson GAR Post 369. Late in life, he advertised for Todd’s Tonic, claiming that it
alleviated his rheumatism and heartily recommended it to the “Boys of ’61.”

On April 22, 1926, Byrkit fell on the sidewalk, fractured his right femur and died the following week. His
death was front-page news of the Indianapolis Star, reporting that it ended “a comradeship of years” between
himself and Robert Dunlap. The death certificate lists his occupation as “Old Soldier,” a fitting tribute to a
faithful and loyal officer in Union blue. He is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.
## MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

Important! Please make certain that you include the shipping cost of $4.50 listed in the order form below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Large Emblem Medal (Hereditary Membership)*</td>
<td>$160.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miniature Emblem Medal (Hereditary Membership)*</td>
<td>$85.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Emblem Medal (Associate Membership)*</td>
<td>$160.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miniature Emblem Medal (Associate Membership)*</td>
<td>$85.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emblem Medals 14-16K Gold (3-4 month delivery) On Request</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer Neck Ribbon</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automobile or Plaque Emblem</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member Rosette (Provided to New Members)</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Rosette (Provided to New Members)</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorary Rosette (Provided to New Members)</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Necktie (All Silk)</td>
<td>$34.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bow Tie (All Silk)</td>
<td>$34.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blazer Patch</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOLLUS Window Decal (Post Pd; no mailing charge)</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate of Hereditary Membership (8 1/2” x 11”)</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate of Hereditary Membership (17” x 19”)</td>
<td>$65.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate of Associate Membership (8 1/2” x 11”)</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official MOLLUS Scarf (9 1/2” x 72”)</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set of 9 MOLLUS Blazer Buttons</td>
<td>$65.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROTC Medal with Ribbon Bar and Certificate</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book: <em>Union Blue</em> by PCinC Robert G. Carroon</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOLLUS Baseball Cap White</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOLLUS T-Shirts (S,M,L,XL,XXL)</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOLLUS Cuff Links (Vermeil)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOLLUS Tie Tacks (Vermeil)</td>
<td>$80.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shipping</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Vermeil (Gold on Sterling Silver)

Questions on supplies and orders should be sent to Joe Coleman at drjtc30@comcast.net