Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln
November 19, 1863
Commander-in-Chief’s Message

Waldron Kintzing Post II was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) on October 19, 2013. He became a Companion of the MOLLUS through the New York Commandery. In addition, he became a dual member of the Connecticut Commandery, where he was elected Commander.

Companion Post was born in Cleveland, Ohio on November 5, 1937, and soon moved to Bayport, Long Island, New York where he spent his early years. Upon completion of his secondary education, he entered the U.S. Army, serving for three years. After his discharge, he enrolled in the SUNY Oneonta where he did both his undergraduate and graduate studies. In 1964, he began his career as a high school English teacher, and after 30 years, retired. He now resides in Kingston, New York.

While growing up on Long Island, New York, Companion Post was well aware of his ancestors who served during the Civil War as their portraits (Lt. Charles A. Post, Lt Abraham K. Post, and Major General Regis deTrobriand) graced the walls of his grandfather’s home. Companion Post bases his MOLLUS membership on these three Civil War officers. In addition to serving in the Civil War, many of his ancestors also became members (Original and Hereditary Companions) of the MOLLUS.

Companion Post is a member of the Massachusetts State Society of the

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**LOYAL LEGION HISTORICAL JOURNAL**
The Publication of the military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

Vol. 70, No. 4  Winter  2014

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**WELCOME NEW COMPANIONS**

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

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**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 James Simmons, for more details.

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**MOLLUS WEBSITE**
Loyal Legion Historical Journal is now online! 
http://www.suvcw.org/mollus/mollus.htm

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**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**

**WI Commandery**

MOLLUS Assoc. Companion Alan Hemple and MOLLUS SVC Paul Johnson, who are also members of GAR Post 8, pose with Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin at the Nov. 8th Ceremonies honoring vets from the Civil War and Vietnam on the occasion of the 150th and 50th Anniversary of those conflicts.

WI GAR Post 8 is composed of about 20 members most of whom have an affiliation with one or more Civil War Hereditary societies. They are essentially Civil War re-enactors who have chosen to portray their ancestors, not as soldiers, but veterans. Post 8 has conducted several ceremonies in conjunction with the Wis. Commandery of MOLLUS and the Wis. Department of the SUVCW.

On the weekend of 20-21 September, WI Commandery Commander Vince Barker and Associate Companions Kim Heltemes and Alan Petit, along with other members of Old Abe Camp # 8, SUVCW, participated in Weyauwega’s annual Horse & Buggy Days Celebration. Events included a rededication of the Civil War Soldiers Monument in downtown Weyauwega on Friday evening and a living history display on Saturday. The weekend was capped off with a marker dedication at Oakwood Cemetery, followed by a Civil War Soldier ghost walk on Saturday evening. The dedication and ghost walk were especially well received by the community.

MOLLUS Commander Vince Barker (4th from left, plus Associate Companions Alan Petit and Kim Heltemes to his left) along with members of SUVCW Camp 8 and American Legion color guard at Weyauwega’s Monument after the rededication of the monument.

**PA Commandery**

On Memorial Day weekend, 2013, Companions Mitchell Schmidt and Paul Lader placed a wreath at the GAR Civil War burial plot in Laurel Hill Cemetery where the Silent Sentry Statue, on loan from MOLLUS PA, will be located. To be mounted on a 10 - Foot high granite base, it will be dedicated on Memorial Day weekend, Sunday May 25, 2014. The Sentry is

(Continued on page 5)
On June 15, PA Commander Joe Coleman and Senior Vice Commander Adam Flint, accompanied by MOLLUS Commander-in-Chief Jeffrey Burden and Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Kinny Post attended a special preview reception of a new exhibit at the Gettysburg Museum and Visitors Center entitled “Treasurers of the Civil War”. The exhibit is the joint effort of the Gettysburg Foundation, Gettysburg National Military Park and the Civil War Museum of Philadelphia (CWMP). Both Commander Coleman and Past Commander Rob Van Gulick are members of the CWMP Board of Governors. The exhibit displays many of the MOLLUS artifacts from the former museum at 1805 Pine Street in Philadelphia. The exhibit was made possible by a generous gift of Ray and Judy Richey who are the main sponsors of the Texas Civil War Museum.

Seeing an opportunity to further enhance the knowledge and understanding of MOLLUS, Ray and Judy were presented a copy of Union Blue by Commander-in-Chief Burden. Also receiving copies were Bob Kirby, Superintendent of GNMP, Andrew Masich the chair of the PA Historical and Museum Commission, JoAnn Hanley the CEO of the Gettysburg Foundation (GF) and Lt. Gen. Daniel Christman the former Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy and former director of the GF. The exhibit will run through September 2015. A visit to Gettysburg is highly recommended.

Another highlight of the evening was the chance to meet some of the descendants of Maj. Gen. John F. Reynolds. Gen. Reynolds was killed on the first day of Gettysburg. Part of the exhibit includes artifacts never displayed that are in the possession of his family. Ten members of the Scott family (Gen. Reynolds’ sister) were in attendance including his great, great, great nephew John F. Reynolds Scott.

Jeffrey Burden, Commander-in-Chief at the time; Oliver St Clair Franklin, CWMP Board of Governors Chair; Sharon Smith, CWMP President; Joe Coleman, PA Commander; National Kinny Post, Sr. Vice C-in-C; Adam Flint, PA Sr. Vice Commander
MA Commandery

Book on Massachusetts in the Civil War

Anticipating the 2014 Annual MOLLUS Congress, the Massachusetts Commandery has commissioned a book, Our Forebears and Our State in the Civil War (Spring 2014). The small volume profiles ancestors of MA MOLLUS Companions who served as Union officers. It also sketches the roles of certain general officers and civilians from Massachusetts who figured prominently in the war effort; notes the wide variety of state industries and businesses that helped sustain the vast enterprise; and highlights sites forever associated with the buildup to the war, and victory.

100th Birthday of Former MOLLUS Commander Lenahan O’Connell

June 6, 2013 marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of J. T. Lenahan O’Connell, an active Companion in the Massachusetts Commandery (1957–), a former MA MOLLUS commander (1963-66), and former MOLLUS Commander-in-Chief (1967–71).

Lenahan is a graduate of Boston English High School (1930), Boston College (1934), Boston University Law School (JD, 1938), and the U.S Army Judge Advocate General Law School of the University of Michigan (1944).

During World War II, Reserve 2nd Lt. O’Connell was a Battery Officer in the 79th Division, then a 1st Lt. and Service Battery Commander and S-4 in the 86th Division. He subsequently served as a Judge Advocate General in the Philippines, where he was promoted to Captain. He was assigned to 8th Army headquarters in Yokahama after the atomic bombs were dropped.

Immediately after the war, Lenahan joined the Army Reserve as a Captain in the 305th Military Government Group, and retired at the age of 60 as a Lt. Col. He was secretary of the Massachusetts Civil War Centennial Commission, and has a special interest in the contributions of Massachusetts Irish-American units during the Civil War.

OH Commandery

The Ohio Companions and Dames held their fall meeting at the Hayes Presidential Library & Museum following a social luncheon at the Chinese Buffet in Fremont.

The Ohio Commandary wishes to thank all of those Companion, Dames & Guests in attendance at the Lincoln Memorial University for the National Congress. We were pleased to host this past congress and look forward to hosting again in the future.

Announcing: Please mark your calendars for April 2015 and join the

(Continued on page 7)
Ohio Commandery in the commemoration events surrounding the lying in state of our martyred president, Abraham Lincoln, on Public Square in downtown Cleveland, Ohio. An event you won’t want to miss. Please visit our new website and Facebook page for monthly updates.

CT Commandery

Connecticut MOLLUS Companions attending the 48th Annual Massing of the Colors of the Hereditary and Patriotic Societies of Connecticut, held September 8, 2013 at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Middletown, Connecticut. The event was jointly hosted by the Connecticut Society, National Daughters of 1812 and the Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Connecticut. MOLLUS Past Commander-in-Chief Robert G. Carroon, was the featured speaker at the event on the life of Commodore Thomas McDonough, a hero of the War of 1812.

VA Commandery

MOLLUS Companion John Grant Griffiths assisted his brothers of the Irish Brigade Camp #4, S.U.V.C.W., in helping open Virginia’s newest Civil War Park on April 27. Created by an unprecedented cooperation among Stafford County, the Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites, local business and the Virginia Army and Air National Guard, Stafford Civil War Park was constructed with private funds. One highlight of its unique history is that the Virginia National Guard Engineer and Construction units constructed the modern roads and drainage as a training mission over two years.

The site had been winter quarters in 1862-63 for soldiers of the XI Corps. On the dedication day, a large contingent of re-enactors, principally from the Co. B, 28th Mass. Vol. Inf. and the 5th US Artillery, provided demonstrations of camp life, infantry tactics and artillery fire. At the end of the day they and the uniformed members of the SUVCW and MOLLUS, marched out, symbolic of the two divisions of the XI Corps who had done so a century and a half before on that exact day.

The Stafford Civil War Park is unique among major Civil War sites in that it is not the site of a major engagement. It is a remarkably well preserved snapshot of how Civil War armies spent most of the War -- in the boredom and unchanging routine of camp life. Preserved in the terrain and rescued from oblivion are three almost pristine earthen batteries, the excavated portions of the ubiquitous log and canvas winter huts, a 19th century road with stone bridge abutments and even surviving portions of a “Corduroy Road” constructed and maintained by the Soldiers of the XI Corps.
Captain James Marion Simmons

was a First Sergeant and Second Lieutenant in Company K, of the 9th KY Infantry Regiment USA, from Nov of 1861, until Feb 1863. After the Battle of Stone River (Murfreesboro), where he was twice cited for gallantry, the men of Company G petitioned Grandpa Simmons to be their Captain, which he was from Feb 1863 until mustered out in Nov 1864 (3 year tour). Captain Demetrious Coyle of Company G was killed in action (KIA) at Murfreesboro. Pap Thomas referred to, was General George H. Thomas, one of the best Union Generals of the war. Snodgrass Hill was a very important place in the Battle, which helped to save the Union Army. The 9th KY Rgt. was on Snodgrass Hill with Pap Thomas, and there is a 9th KY marker there. The amazing story about Captain Simmons saving First Lieutenant Thomas Batdorf is true. After the war, Lt. Batdorf's granddaughter Mataleen, married Capt. Simmons' son Clayton. Clayton and Mataleen became historians and wrote the 1940's book about the oral histories of the pioneers of the area of Glasgow, KY. His house was on the road, between the two towns which produced most of the men in the two different Companies (K & G) he had served with for three years. So many of the family stories came from men and friends constantly visiting the large home as they passed by, while women in the home were always cooking, and cleaning. Besides Kentucky Bourbon and tobacco, Captain Simmons kept barrels of apple and peach brandy in the saddle house. His sons (Clayton included) said they hauled "many a wagon load of apples and peaches to the still".

The Officer’s sash & his hat are still privately owned by descendants.

Captain James Alan Simmons

great great grandson of Captain James Marion Simmons

The national meeting of DOLLUS was held at the Lincoln Memorial University in the Abraham Lincoln Library & Museum in October. Members present included Jr. Vice President Lynne Bury, Recorder Jean Bishop and members Nancy Kane, Mary Louise Daley and Elizabeth Rock from the Ohio Commandery, and Ellen Higgins from the PA Commandery. The motion was passed for the next national board meeting to be held during the Abraham Lincoln Birthday weekend on February 11th at the Holiday Inn, from 8:30-10:30 in the Executive Board room. The Helen Sodden Brady Scholarship recipients for the 2013-2014 year were awarded to the following students:

Emily Van Gulick, receiving $500
George Abbott Melby, receiving $500
Benjamin Snively, receiving $300

DOLLUS members Lynne Bury, Ellen Higgins & Elizabeth Rock also attended and represented our organization during Remembrance Day weekend in Gettysburg at the MOLLUS MI ceremony in the National Cemetery and the laying of wreaths by National MOLLUS in the cemetery and at the MOLLUS Monument.
Cincinnati, the Military Society of the War of 1812, the Daniel E. Sickles Camp #3, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and the Order of Indian Wars of the United States. He married Sheila Margey and they have three daughters, Kristen, Alison, and Courtney. In addition, they have nine grandchildren, three of whom are members of the MOLLUS.

I, as your 60th Commander-in-Chief, enter the position with great humility. It is an awesome feeling to realize that I am now in a position that was once filled by so many distinguished and honorable leaders. To be the leader of an organization such as ours that has, for nearly 150 years, continuously perpetuated the memory of those who fought to preserve the unity of the republic, and to promote the ideals of our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, is a rare privilege. I will do my best to meet the challenge.

What will make my term easier is knowing that I am not alone, for you have given me a “team” of officers who work together not only as companions but as friends. We enjoy doing what we do as we do our best to serve you. In addition, there is another group out there who have always given their support and have always been willing to share their knowledge and experience--our Past Commanders-in Chief. To paraphrase one of our more notable past members: “old chiefs never die, they just fade into the shadows.”

During my term I will do my best to keep communication open between all of our Commanderies and our Committees. I want to do this on a regular basis and want to encourage each and every one of you to do the same. In order to remain strong, our members must stay in touch with each other and share our proud heritage--our ancestors would insist upon it.

The Loyal Legion does not stand alone--we have brothers and sisters who belong to like societies sharing many of the same goals and ideals. Over the past years we have kept the doors open and they keep opening wider and wider with each new Commander-in-Chief. I plan on keeping that door wide open, and continue the relationships that have been established.

In closing, I would remiss if I did not paraphrase another of our notable leaders, “I may sound like a broken record, but get out there and recruit.”

Waldron Kintzing Post II

To the membership...

Feb. 12, 2014 is the centennial of the ground-breaking ceremony for the Lincoln Memorial. The National Organization of MOLLUS wishes to take this opportunity to invite any Companions who have never been, or have not been in a while, to attend the February 12, 2013 ceremony. It also is the start of the run-up to the centennial of the dedication on May 30, 2022. Whether or not that acknowledgement happens on Feb. 12 or May 30, 8 years from now, remains to be seen. One thing is for sure, the best way to be in command of that event, starts with our acknowledgement of the ground-breaking centennial this February. Please plan to attend. With Commander Kinny's permission, if someone wants to have centennial ribbons made up for this February, I will donate the first $100.

Loyally,
Jim Simmons
Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

District of Columbia Commandery
(DC metropolitan region, Maryland, Delaware & New Jersey)
Commander - Robert D. Pollock / 3504 Wilson Street, City of Fairfax, VA 22030-2936 / mollusdc@gmail.com

2014 Abraham Lincoln Birthday Ceremonies and Midwinter Meetings

Monday 10 February 2014
1630-1830  Welcome and Registration  Holiday Inn National Airport (Lobby)
1830-2130  Optional MOLLUS & DOLLUS Dinner  “The Portofino”, Arlington VA

Tuesday 11 February 2014
0800-1100  MOLLUS Midwinter Meeting  Holiday Inn National Airport, (Eisenhower Meeting Room)
0830-1030  DOLLUS Midwinter Meeting  Holiday Inn National Airport, (Executive Board Room)
1145-1330  Social and Luncheon  Holiday Inn National Airport, (O’Malley’s Pub)
1430-1730  Tour of Civil War Defenses of Washington via Motor-coach
1845-2130  Social and Birthday Banquet  Holiday Inn National Airport, (Shenandoah Ballroom)

Wednesday 12 February 2014
1000-1030  Travel to Lincoln Memorial via Motor-coach
1100-1230  LBNCC /MOLLUS/NPS Lincoln Memorial Ceremony The Mall, Washington DC
1245-1500  LBNCC Lincoln Birthday Luncheon Pier 7 Restaurant, Channel Inn
650 Water St. SW Washington, D.C.
3 hours free parking with stamp
Speaker & Program TBA

Holiday Inn National Airport at Crystal City. 2650 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington VA 22202
www.hinationalairport.com

The hotel was remodeled in 2010. We have 18 rooms blocked for 10 and 11 Feb 2013 under “Military Order of the Loyal Legion.” Rooms available are: 2 Double Bed “mini-suite” or 1 King Bed. Both are $119.00 + 10% tax per night. Free parking. There is a complementary shuttle to National Airport and to Crystal City Metro. Room rate will be honored for three days before the meeting and three days after (7-15 Feb 2014).

The DC Commandery, Celebrating our 131st year
2014 Abraham Lincoln Birthday Ceremonies and Midwinter Meetings
Registration Form

Mail the following order form and check made payable to “DC MOLLUS” to:
Col Robert D. Pollock at 3504 Wilson Street, City of Fairfax, VA 22030-2936
To Arrive before 28 Jan 2014

I, ________________________________ will attend the Mid-Winter Meeting of MOLLUS & DOLLUS
and ________________________________ & ________________________________ will be my guest(s).

Registration Fee: $25.00 x ____ = ______
Tuesday Luncheon: $35.00 x ____ = ______
Tuesday Banquet: $65.00 x ____ = ______
Total Enclosed: ______

LBNCC LUNCHEON
Wednesday, 12 February 2014

Please return this form not later than February 5, 2014 to:
Peter Arrott Dixon, Chairman, 111 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3803.
Make (Separate) Check Payable to “LBNCC”. (PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY RESERVATIONS)

Please make the following reservations for the LBNCC Luncheon at the Channel Inn (Pier 7),
Wednesday, Feb. 12.

Luncheon is $30.00 per person. (Please list guests.) No. ____ x $30.00 = $_______
Choose: ( ) Fish   ( ) Chicken

NAME: _______________________________ Email or Tel. # __________________

Guests: _________________________________________________________________
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

ALF UPDATE
In a memorandum dated October 25th 2013 from the ALF of the Union League indicates that:
“The final phase of construction of the Heritage Center began in August. This phase includes the high density Collection Storage Vault which will house the collections of the Union League, the ALF, MOLLUS, DOLLUS and the Civil War Museum of Philadelphia. The Construction is on schedule to be completed by November 27, 2013.” The memo continued in regard to MOLLUS and DOLLUS as follows: “The vast majority of the MOLLUS collection was processed in 2011. There are only 7 boxes of MOLLUS material that need to be processed and integrated into the collection. Beginning October 22, two interns from PACSCL began the work on these final boxes. They will create a finding aid for the MOLLUS collection by the end of December that will be available on both the Heritage Center website and the PACSCL website. The Heritage Center will open as a special collections research library and archives in February 2014. This will coincide with the launch of the new website and the expansion of public hours to the center.”
A grand fellowship was had during the 2013 National Congress. Special Thanks goes to LMU for making this so special.
Edward Lovel Foster was born on June 21, 1840 at Calais, Vermont to George Washington Foster and Polly Kelton. Through his mother, he was a descendant of Mayflower Passenger, Elder William Brewster. He grew up in Calais, Vermont. Edward enlisted as a Private on August 2, 1862 in Co. I, 11th Vermont Volunteer Infantry and he was mustered into service Sept 1, 1862. On September 7, 1862, the regiment left the state for Washington, D.C. to be part of the defenses of Washington, D.C. When the regiment arrived in Washington, D.C. his company being Co. I, was assigned to Fort Thayer. On November 17, 1862 his company was moved from Fort Thayer to Fort Massachusetts. The designation of the regiment was changed to the 1st. Vermont Heavy Artillery on Dec 10, 1862. In March of 1863, his company was moved from Fort Massachusetts to Fort Bunker Hill along with Co. H of his regiment. On May 16, 1863 Edward was promoted Commissary Sergeant. Then on December 28, 1863 he was promoted and commissioned 2nd Lieutenant. During the regiment’s time in the defenses of Washington, D.C. the regiment became known for it’s proficiency in drill and through discipline. Edward took a leave of absence from March 10-25, 1864. On May 12, 1864 the regiment was ordered into the army in the field when General Grant summoned all available troops to re-enforce the Army of the Potomac. The first battle the regiment was in, was the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse. From July 25, 1864-October 31, 1864, Lt. Foster was on detached service as recorder of the Board of Officers at Fort Stevens, D.C. It was during this time that he received a promotion to 1st. Lieutenant. On April 1, 1865, he was appointed Regimental Adjutant being with his regiment until he was mustered out June 24, 1865. In September of 1865, Edward moved to New York City. On February 17, 1870, Edward Foster married Jennie McDowell. Their marriage was blessed with 2 sons, Harry H. Foster and Frank Herbert Foster. In 1874, he began working as a Merchant’s Clerk at the firm of S & F Ulman, Hop Dealers. He was employed by this firm until his death. Unfortunately on Oct 25, 1886, his wife, Jennie passed away. Edward remarried some years later to a Henrietta McLaughlin. In June of 1892, Edward moved from New York City to East Orange, New Jersey. On May 23, 1893, Edward L. Foster was elected a Companion of the First Class in the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States and was Insignia Number 10221. He appears to have gone back and forth between the Vermont and NY Commanderies several times. Unfortunately, on March 24, 1894 Henrietta Foster passed away in East Orange, New Jersey. On June 6, 1895 Edward remarried to Martha Vanderpool and with his bride moved to Newark, New Jersey. In 1903, he put in for a disability pension but let it expire. Again, in 1905 he put in for a disability pension and received one for partial disability at the rate of 8 dollars a month on September 15, 1905. He received an increase to 10 dollars a month on June 27, 1910. Edward Lovel Foster passed away on May 7, 1912 from heart failure at his home at 189 Roseville Ave., Newark, New Jersey. In addition to the Loyal Legion, he was also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Submitted by Adam Gaines
On Friday, June 27, 1862, the Army of the Potomac, under the command of Major General George B. McClellan, was less than ten miles from Richmond, Virginia. Following the engagements at Oak Grove and Mechanicsville on the 25th and 26th the Battle of Gaines’ Mill, the third of the now famous “Seven Days Battle”, was about to commence. After breakfast, the men of the Second Brigade, General George W. Morell’s First Division of General Fitz John Porter’s Fifth Corps, composed of the 62nd Pennsylvania, 4th Michigan, 14th New York and “Irish 9th” Massachusetts, an all-Irish regiment comprised of members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Irish Republican (Fenian) Brotherhood, under the command of Brigadier-General Charles Griffin, left their respective camps and marched in the direction of New Cold Harbor and halted a short distance from Gaines’ Mill, once one of the finest grist mills in the state of Virginia. Prior to leaving camp each man in the “Irish 9th” Regiment of Massachusetts had been issued three day’s rations and eighty rounds of ammunition.

From the Confederate side at approximately the same hour, Major General Ambrose Powell (“A.P.”) Hill’s “Light Division”, of General Longstreet’s I Corps, was on the move from Mechanicsville. On Paper the Light Division numbered 30,000 men but at Gaines’s Mill only some 14,000 troops were engaged. As the six brigades of Confederate infantry and seven batteries of artillery began their march, General Hill sent orders for General Maxcy Gregg’s Second Brigade, consisting of the 1st, 12th, 13th, and 14th South Carolina Regiments, and Orr’s Rifle Regiment, also from South Carolina, to move out in advance of the main body and “drive out of their entrenchments any Federal units he encountered”. Leaving the 14th South Carolina on picket duty at the Chickahominy River, General Gregg sent forward, on the right flank, the 1st South Carolina under the command of Colonel D.H. Hamilton, with the 12th South Carolina, under Colonel Dixon Barnes, on his left flank. Orr’s Regiment of Rifles and the 13th South Carolina followed in support.

Just before noon, General Griffin sent Colonel Thomas Cass orders for the Irish 9th Massachusetts to advance ahead in the direction of Gaines’ Mill and to hold the bridge crossing over the Powhite Creek, just below the Mill. General Griffin also informed Colonel Cass that two additional regiments would be sent to support the 9th (it should be noted these two regiments never arrived and for which General Griffin later apologized).

Upon arriving at the bridge, Colonel Cass deployed as skirmishes Company I, under Captain McCafferty, on the right flank, and Company F, under Captain O’Leary, on the left flank. Soon thereafter, Confederate infantry advanced down the road by Gaines’ Mill to their front. General Gregg had sent forward as skirmishes two companies from the 1st South Carolina and one company from the 12th South Carolina.

Advancing at the double-quick, in the noonday heat, the Confederate skirmish line was met by a volley of musket fire from the Irish 9th Massachusetts’ Company I to their front and from Company F on their right flank. After several horrible and frantic minutes the Rebels were driven back. Additional troops from General Maxcy Gregg’s South Carolina Brigade moved onto the field in an attempt to drive the Irish 9th’s skirmishes from their isolated and exposed position. Time and again, the brave South Carolinians charged against Companies I and F of the Irish 9th of Massachusetts, only to be met with withering musket fire from the determined Irish troops. Confederate forces continued to take the field as Colonel Cass sent forward Companies A and D, under Major Patrick Hanley, to reinforce the bloodied I and F. Company I, being to the front, was taking a murderous beating while gallantly holding its position. Captain James McCaffertty and 1st Lieutenant Richard Nugent lay dead among the carnage with 2nd Lieutenant Frank O’Dowd now in command of the Company. Major Hanley rode up and down his line of defenders shouting orders and giving encouragement. By now, the major portion of Gregg’s Brigade was on the field. General A.P. Hill would later write that Gregg’s troops at Gaines’ Mill performed “the handsomest charge in line I have seen during the war.” The fighting intensified and Major Hanley gave the order (Continued on page 16)
to fall back. The four Companies closed intervals and while still facing the oncoming Rebel forces, on command gave one final volley of fire by company before slowly giving ground. During this withdrawal Lieutenant O’Dowd was killed and First Sergeant James MacNamara was seriously wounded and captured. Sergeant Timothy Deasy, now the senior noncommissioned officer still in action, assumed command of Company I.

Consolidating the remains of the company, and with his younger brother Connie at his side, Sergeant Deasy shouted the order to “Rally By Fours” and the men came together in groups of four. “Boys, stand firm!” “Stand firm!” he shouted. “Commence firing.” The remnants of Company I once again began firing volleys of musket fire into the advancing Confederate troops. Having gained control of the Company and the confidence of the men he gave the order to once again, “Deploy as skirmishes!” “Retire in Order. Retire in Order,” he commanded. He then ordered several of the walking wounded to gather up the ammunition boxes and canteens of their fallen comrades and to help to the rear those who could be moved as they fell back to their own lines.

By 2:00 p.m. Colonel Cass had succeeded in moving the Irish 9th back to the Fifth Corps’ main line. The infantry battle line of General Morell’s First Division was formed on the incline of the hill along Boatswain’s Swamp, from the center of the line to the extreme left. General Sykes’ Second Division was in position from the center and extended over Turkey Hill to the extreme right. General Griffin’s Second Brigade was on the right of the First Division. The 9th Massachusetts formed on the right of the Brigade at the very center of the line of battle. The 62nd Pennsylvania formed in line directly behind the Irish 9th. To the left of the 9th stood four regiments of General Martindale’s First Brigade with the 22nd Massachusetts and 1st Berdan Sharpshooters in a line to their rear. To the 9th’s immediate right, covering the road from New Cold Harbor, was the 3rd. Massachusetts Battery of Artillery, under the command of Captain A.P. Martin. To the right of Martin’s Battery was positioned Colonel Kemble Warren’s Third Brigade, Second Division.

At 2:30 p.m. General Hill ordered his Light Division to attack, in sweltering heat: the men of General Gregg’s Second Brigade along with General O’Bryan Branch’s Fourth Brigade of North Carolinians (which the 9th Massachusetts had fought against the previous month at the Battle at Hanover Court House). General William Dorsey Pender’s Sixth Brigade of North Carolinians and General J.R. Anderson’s Third Brigade advanced on the Federal center. During the advance General Gregg ordered Orr’s Rifles, with Colonel J. Foster Marshall in command, to charge and capture Captain A.P. Martin’s 3rd Massachusetts Artillery Battery. Colonel Marshall formed his men in three lines of battle and with bugles sounding and drums pounding began his attack. For a distance of several hundred yards, in the face of murderous musket and cannon fire, the courageous troops of Orr’s Rifles advanced across open ground. The Irish 9th Massachusetts, supported by the 62nd Pennsylvania and Berdan’s Sharpshooters, successfully repulsed the brave attack inflicting heavy casualties upon the South Carolina Rifle Regiment. Of the 537 valiant Confederate warriors that started out, 81 lay dead and another 234 wounded. In the ensuing attack two color-bearers in the 7th North Carolina, from Branch’s Fourth Brigade, were killed one after the other. Colonel Reuben Campbell, the 7th’s Regimental Commander, then took up his regiment’s colors. As he advanced to the front of his troops he too was killed instantly. When the 7th’s flag was ultimately carried from the battlefield it had been pierced by thirty-two musket balls. It should be noted that during the battle the 62nd Pennsylvania Regiment had five of its color-bearers killed in action.

At 3:00 p.m. General Hill’s Division attacked along the Federal left and center positions. As the fighting raged General Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson’s Corps of twenty thousand men arrived and went into action on the left of General A.P. Hill. The Confederates now outnumbered the Federal forces by better than two to one. By 5:30 p.m. General Fitz John Porter’s weakened line began to break under the continued Confederate assault. By 7:00 p.m. the Federal troops were in a general retreat. In a heroic, but vain, attempt to stem the Rebel advance five companies of the 5th U.S. Cavalry made a fearless saber charge where both riders and horses were mercilessly cut to ribbons. A Confederate officer later described the battlefield’s horrific aftermath where “hundreds of horses were laying around. Some dead, some with legs shot off, trying to get up, moaning and crying like children begging for help.” Confusion was turning into pandemonium. Almost without warning the 9th Massachusetts found itself at the rear of the retreat. The magnificent and unswerving heroism on the part of the gallant Irish regiment at this critical juncture of the battle was described by a reporter of the New York Herald who witnessed the action. “The 9th Massachusetts regiment was at the rear of the retreating column which had just passed over a hill onto a large open plain. To break and run was not for the men who had covered themselves with glory during the entire day. Colonel Guiney (now in command) decided to form a line of battle on his colors and resist the
approach of the enemy until the advance of the retreat should have been far enough to leave ground sufficient to enable him to commence his retreat in good order. Colonel Guiney, with his standard-bearers, advanced upon the Rebels with the words, “Men follow your colors!” Before that small band of jaded heroes waved the Stars and Stripes and green flag of Erin and with loud huzzahs they rushed upon the Rebels driving them up a hill. Nine times did the remnant of the 9th drive with ball and buckshot, the advance of the Rebel army…”

As the Irish 9th charged headlong into the enemy with its green battle flag to the front, word was being sent to General Thomas Jonathan “Stonewall” Jackson that the Irish Brigade had taken the field. The Confederates, seeing the 9th’s green regimental color, misidentified the regiment as being the famed Irish Brigade. General Jackson then committed his reserves with orders to, as Captain Conyngham of the 69th New York notes in his History of the Irish Brigade, “Sweep away that damned brigade.” The Irish 9th of Massachusetts withstood the murderous shock of Jackson’s elite troops but at a heavy cost of dead and wounded. As the 9th began to be driven back, fighting as they went, they could hear the sound of onrushing charging soldiers to their rear. The Irish Brigade, with General Thomas Francis Meagher (“Meagher of the Sword”) at the head of the 69th New York Volunteer Infantry, was advancing to reinforce their position. Cheers of joy and an Irish battle cry were given as the two gallant Irish forces merged. With both battle flags to the front and with the cries of “Fág an Bealach” and “Erin Go Bragh”, the sons and soldiers of Ireland, those Bold Fenian Men, advanced upon the enemy before retiring in order from the battlefield. [A scene magnificently depicted by the noted Civil War artist Don Troiani in his print Brothers of Ireland.]

Throughout the day’s conflict, as they did throughout each of the “Seven Days Battles”, and for the remainder of their active service, these Irish, battle tested, veterans of the Irish 9th Regiment of Massachusetts were living proof of the motto that was inscribed on their Emerald Green Battle Flag made of silk. Just below its gold harp were two Irish Wolf Hounds and, in gold lettering the legends:

Gentle When Stroked
But Fierce When Provoked
The Union, It Must Be Preserved

In all, there were 6,837 Federal casualties (dead, wounded, missing) and 8,750 Confederate losses at the Battle of Gaines’ Mill. The Irish 9th of Massachusetts lost a total of 252 men, 40 of whom were from Company I. The survivors of the 9th Massachusetts, especially those of Company I, would be forever grateful to their brothers of the Irish Brigade, especially their brothers of the New York 69th. General Fitz John Porter later personally expressed his gratitude to the men of the 9th Massachusetts. Lieutenant Daniel MacNamara, author of The History of the 9th Mass. Vols., details an article in Century Magazine written by General Porter, “At Gaines’ Mill Colonel Cass’s gallant 9th Massachusetts Volunteers of Griffin’s brigade obstinately resisted A.P. Hill’s crossing, and were so successful in delaying his advance, after crossing, as to compel him to employ large bodies to force the regiment back to the main line…This persistent and prolonged resistance gave to this battle one of the well known names”…(Gaines’ Mill). And in a letter written to Captain O’Leary from General Porter in May, 1866, “The services of the regiment 9th Massachusetts Volunteers during the seven days’ fight were extraordinary and unsurpassed by gallantry and stubborn fighting, and the surviving members of those days might well claim a Medal of Honor for them.” A truly remarkable tribute from their former Commanding General.

General Robert E. Lee would later write of A.P. Hill, “Next to Longstreet and Jackson, I consider A.P. Hill the best commander with me. He fights his troops well and takes good care of them.”

It is worth noting the heroic and timely actions taken by the Irish 9th Massachusetts, and the 69th New York and the Irish Brigade, at the Battle of Gaines’ Mill helped to save the Army of the Potomac from possible destruction. It most certainly was The Day the Irish Brigade Saved the 9th Massachusetts.
Robert J. Bateman is the great-grandson of Pvt. Cornelius Deasy and great-grand-nephew of Captain Timothy Deasy, 9th Massachusetts Volunteers (from Clonakilty, County Cork, Ireland). He was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts and raised in Lawrence and York Harbor, Maine. Bob is a Colonel, Army Division, New York Guard, assigned to the General Staff, New York Guard Headquarters, as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence (G/2), formerly a member of the 88th Brigade, New York Guard (lineal descendant of the 88th New York Volunteer Infantry of the Irish Brigade of the Army of the Potomac). A former National Historian of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America (AOH); a former Director, Irish National Caucus; Past Commander-in-Chief, The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States; Past Chairman of the Board, The Military Association of New York; a member of the National Guard Association of the United States; the New York Guard Association; the Association of the US Army (AUSA); the Irish Brigade Association; The Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (Knights Templar); the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Colonel Bateman is an Honorary Member of the 69th Regiment of New York. He is the Founder and President of Alliance Defense Marketing Associates, LLC; he has four grown children and six grand-children; he and his wife Camille reside in New York City.

THE MICHIGAN COMMANDERY AND MONUMENT PARK

Captain Charles W. Watkins

Charles Watkins was born in East Salem, NY, March 5, 1844. He received an academic education. In 1856 removed to Leighton, Mich. He entered the 6th Michigan Cavalry as a Private in 1861; was transferred to the 10th Michigan Cavalry in 1863. Watkins was commissioned as Lieutenant; served as Adjutant of the regiment for a brief period, and was made a Captain by brevet "for gallantry in action at Abbott Creek, NC and for meritorious conduct during the raid of Gen. Stoneman's Cavalry in the spring of 1865." He followed the mercantile business in Allegan county and was a representative from Allegan county in 1871-1873. Watkins later moved to Grand Rapids, where he engaged in the insurance business. In politics he was a Republican. Watkins served as Vice-President of the Peninsular Trust Company of Grand Rapids and was Collector of Internal Revenue for two and a half years under President Arthur.

He died suddenly of heart disease on March 19, 1906 while aboard the S.S. Tagus and was buried at sea the same day. A memorial stone exists in the Oakhill Cemetery in Grand Rapids. Perhaps his greatest post-war achievement were the words he spoke at the dedication of the Kent County Civil War Monument on September 17, 1885. Some of his words -

"...Michigan stood in the front rank of loyal States, and nowhere within her boundaries was found a more earnest, determined, and patriotic citizen-ship than in the County of Kent. This monument, which is today presented to the Grand Army of the Republic, is a testimonial to the value and worth of the brave men who responded to their country's call for aid and died that the Nation might live.

"...Kent County sent to the war 4,214 of her truest and best sons to battle for National unity, constitutional liberty and the old flag. On every prominent battlefield, the history of Kent County's sons is written in their own blood.

"Oh! the sacrifices made; the weary marches; the fallen comrades; the horrors of Andersonville and Libby Prison; aye! The battlefields of Bull Run, Gettysburg, Lookout Mountain, Chancellorsville, Stone River, and Appomattox, where the Nation's destiny was carved out and where they were in the forefront of the fray. All these rise before us, each with its multitude of reasons why this testimonial to their value, this tribute to their work, this monument, should be dedicated to their memory.

"...Most nations erect monuments to their great leaders; but today in this memorial we recognize no one above the other, and in ages hence, when every person here has been laid in his final resting place, the stranger within the city's gates, or the prattling child, as they pass by, may ask, Whose monument is that? And the response will be – That monument is erected in honor of the soldiers of Kent County, whose valor made it possible for us to
live today in this beautiful, peaceful and prosperous city, under the stars and stripes, fitting emblem of a Union of States and a Nation’s authority.

“Not alone, however, to the soldiers who fought battles is the country indebted for victory. They who at home by voice, vote and act sustained the Government, cared for the loved ones, caused steps to be taken which culminate today in the dedication of this splendid monument – the men whose gratitude is splendidly typified in the fountain symbol, the true sentiment of which is that so long as grass grows and water runs, the deeds of the soldiers will be kept fresh and green in the hearts of the people. These men I say were heroes and de-serve their full meed of praise. And the women in camp, in hospital and home, their prayers, their love and tender care helped to win victories, the world has yet to produce more heroic care than they.

“This monument is erected in honor of the soldiers of Kent County, living, and dead who have gone to their reward; but to those living it has a double significance. It stands for a Union restored, a people prosperous, united, happy slavery dead, the equality of all men before the law, a Government of the people, and a just appreciation of the services that made all these possible.

“The soldier dies; this monument and this Government will go on for ages, new generations come, old generations pass away; the fruits of the civil war are permanent and lasting; the victory of the sixties will be the crowning blessing of the twentieth century; it drenched the land in blood and cost us dearly in treasure. We have our re-ward in bequeathing to coming generations a Union of States firmly established upon the undying principles of free homes, free schools, free speech, and free ballots – the grandest and best Government under the sun.”

M O N U M E N T   P A R K   T O D A Y

Over the years, other tributes and commemorations of the Civil War and the G.A.R. found a home in Monument Park. The second item to be placed in the park was a flag pole (removed as of 1977).

April 6, 1921 - An article from the Grand Rapids Press titled, “G.A.R. Plans to Put Flagstaff in Monument Square” Watson and Custer Posts, GAR and Sons of Veterans have appointed committees to solicit funds for the erection of a flagstaff in Monument Square. The staff will be of steel and 67 feet high and is estimated to cost $400 or $500.

April 19, 1921 - The Herald carried the following story titled, “Old Glory’s Army Grows As Scores Give Dollars” From the Michigan Soldiers’ Home yesterday came a crisp one-dollar bill from Sgt. Spooner, a veteran of the Rebellion who is worried lest the younger generation of Grand Rapids to whom the Civil War is only history, will fail the G.A.R. in competition of its program for regeneration of sacred Monument Park. …Contributions should be made to the cashier of the Herald. (A list of supporters included $84.50 raised in one day with $1 and $2 contributions, bringing the total to $241 in just three days.)

April 20, 1921 - The Herald continued the next day with a story titled, “It Didn’t Take Grand Rapids So Long - GAR Fund Over-Subscribed” On next Memorial Day, Old Glory will float high over Monument Park; and there Old Glory will remain – atop a 67-foot staff of steel – for all of the Memorial Days to come, an ocular display of Grand Rapids’ homage to those blue-clad fighting men who fought to preserve the Union, and a continuous consecration of community patriotism.

June 6, 1923 A third item, a bronze tablet-let on a small boulder, was dedicated by the Department of Michigan, Woman’s Relief Corps. The tablet read - This tablet erected by the Department of Michigan Woman’s Relief Corps - In memory of, and dedicated to the Veterans of the Civil War. words they are mute, While o’er you the emblem, you perished to save, The star spangled banner forever shall wave.

The fourth item, a granite bench, was dedicated in September, 1935, in near-by Fulton Park, today Veterans Memorial Park, by the National Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, was added in 1977.

Fast forward to 2013! While Michigan Commandery Companions Pierce and Watkins helped dedicate the monument, there was never any official recognition of the MOLLUS until now. Through an anonymous donation by a Michigan Companion, a new $1,700 granite memorial bench will be placed in the rehabilitated park opposite the 1935 bench. Captain Watkins’ inspiring words will serve as a permanent reminder to all. It should be noted that in the thirteen years previous to putting together this issue of the newsletter, I had used two sources that indicated Charles Watkins was a Major in the war. Guess what? Watkins’ highest rank was Captain. The bench text will reflect that.
Military Order of the Loyal Legion
Keith Harrison
4209 Santa Clara Drive
Holt, MI 48842

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NOTICE
The Spring Issue of The Loyal Legion Journal Will be published in March of 2014.
EDITORIAL DEADLINE IS February 15, 2014
Please email all material to: Robert E. Rock
MOLLUSJournal@aol.com

Send orders and payment to: Joseph T. Coleman, Ed.D.
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*Vermeil (Gold on Sterling Silver)

Questions on supplies and orders should be sent to Joe Coleman at djtc30@comcast.net