

**New Home for the Michigan Commandery and Its Recent Activities**  
**Bruce B. Butgereit, Commander**  
**Michigan Commandery**  
**Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States**  
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The Michigan Commandery of the Military of the Loyal Legion (MOLLUS) is proud to officially claim the Plymouth (Michigan) Historical Museum as its new home with three meetings held there in 2005. With our focus on honoring and perpetuating the life of our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln; it was a perfect marriage given the Museum's extensive Abraham Lincoln Collection and exhibits.

Opened in 2002, the Abraham Lincoln Collection at the Plymouth Historical Museum is a result of the lifetime collection, amassed over 70 years, by Dr. Weldon Petz (Honorary Companion, #22230). This collection features artifacts from 10 stages of Lincoln's life, over 1,200 books, a keyword searchable database, and over 2,000 photographs and clip-files of Lincoln and various documents. Other items include books belonging to young Abe Lincoln, family genealogy, handwritten legal cases, a lock of Lincoln's hair, silk flowers from the President's casket, and much more. In total, the Museum features 26,000 square feet of exhibits and research material including a recreation of the 19th Century American experience, a Main Street of shops, special exhibits, a gift shop, and ever important educational programs.



**Plymouth Historical Museum Abraham Lincoln Collection. Left to Right: Keith Harrison, Chancellor-in-Chief; Fred Roberts, Michigan Commandery Senior Vice Commander; Bruce B. Butgereit, Michigan Commandery Commander; and Dr. Weldon Petz, Michigan Commandery Honorary Member.**

The Michigan Commandery also was represented at the rededication of the Michigan Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument in Detroit, Michigan on April 9, 2005. Conducted by Bruce B. Butgereit, Michigan Commandery Commander, the ceremony mirrored that of the original 133 years earlier in Campus Martius Park in downtown Detroit. Highlights

included participation by the Detroit Police Department Color Guard and the Male Chorus of the Second Baptist Church of Detroit; just as they both did in 1872. The City of Detroit had not seen such an event since the dedication of the monument with over 600 spectators and well over one-hundred participants which included members of MOLLUS and the Dames of the Loyal Legion of the United States and each of the five Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic. In 1872, the MOLLUS was represented by Generals Philip Sheridan, Ambrose Burnside, George Custer, and Russell A. Alger and close to 2,000 veterans of the Civil War.



**Michigan Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Rededication April 9, 2005. In the lead are the Detroit Police Department and a few paces behind is Michigan Commandery Senior Vice Commander, Fred Roberts carrying the Michigan Commandery Flag.**

A current project by the Michigan Commandery includes working with the State of Michigan to correct an historical marker that gives the wrong information. The Woodruff brothers, George and William of Marshall, Michigan both served as Lt.'s in the 1st U.S. Field Artillery, Battery D and the 1st Michigan Infantry Regiment, respectively. A marker near the family mausoleum in Marshall, Michigan accurately states that after George was killed defending against Pickett's charge at Gettysburg, his father brought the body back home for final burial, but it incorrectly states that William died from wounds received at Petersburg and is buried at Gettysburg National Cemetery. After extensive research, William was found to be one of the first officers buried in Mrs. Lee's Rose Garden of the then new Arlington Cemetery. The new marker will have the correct information about one of Michigan's young officers.