Communique from Commander
David O. Whittemore

Is anybody willing to work with Ron Morneau to help veterans who are either in need of help after providing service to our country, or on active duty? Unless we can get four or more people to participate in this activity I think it will go on the shelf for the moment.

Come to the Lincoln Birthday Observance at the Memorial
The next big date on the calendar for our commandery would be the February trip to Washington D.C. to celebrate Lincoln’s Birthday at the Lincoln Monument. Is there anybody who would like to attend that event? The Mass Commandery will pay for travel, room and board at the function and we can provide that for up to five people. Some of those who sign up first, other than an officer such as Commander or Vice Commander, will be assured of reimbursement for attendance at that event. If you decide to drive and combine this with other activities in the Washington D.C. area, we will reimburse you .50 per mile if you keep track of your mileage leaving Massachusetts, arriving in D.C. and return. We would hope that you could reserve among the book of rooms set aside for MOLLUS at the hotel of choice. Look to the National website for more information on where the event will be staged. Believe it involves a Sheraton.

There is a Commandery meeting at some point in the two days that MOLLUS is in D.C. and then the actual day that we go to the monument we take a bus from the hotel to the monument, arriving around 11:00 for a ceremony at 12.

Celebrate Lincoln’s Birthday in Hingham
We also have to find someone if Fred Stevens is unable to participate again this year in the Hingham Day honoring Abe Lincoln. Would somebody be willing to help coordinate this with Fred, so that we find out how we do participate and if any financial consideration is to be part of our participation.

Volunteer for ROTC Award Program
Then we have the ROTC medal program to implement in the spring. Do we have any volunteers to help with this? We normally give up to five awards to students participating at MIT, Northeastern, and UMass.

Joint Meeting
Then what are your feelings on having a joint meeting with Connecticut and Rhode Island and perhaps some folks from New York state next spring – late April or early May? Any preferences as to one of the following three venues: 1. Air Museum in Hartford; 2. Civil War Museum in Windsor Locks, CT; 3. Wadsworth Atheneum Museum in Hartford, CT. Any preference for mid-week or weekend for the joint meeting?

Member Recruitment
Can each member bring in a new member during the year ending June 30, 2016? We will help find the genealogical tree that entitles potential new member to hereditary status, or help with an associate membership if the potential member is lacking a Union officer who fought in the Civil War.

All for now. Contact DOW at dwhittemore@wwattorneys.net or call 508-305-2395.
Commandery Officers 2015–2016

Commander: David Otis Whittemore, a great-great-grandson of Lieutenant Colonel Horace Oscar Whittemore.

Vice Commander: Mark E. Slayton, a great-great-grandson of Captain Joshua Slayton and a great-grandson of Captain (Bvt BG) James Russell Slayton.

Treasurer: Rufus Smith Frost III, a great-grandson of First Assistant Engineer James Buchanan Houston.

Recorder: Edward Francis Welch, a great-grandnephew of Lieutenant Edward Everett Bird.

Chaplain: David Hockensmith, a great-grandnephew of Captain John Francis McLelland

Chancellor: Lawrence Howard Norris, a great-grandson of Captain William T. Wiggins.

Surgeon: (vacant)

Judge Advocate: John L. Kerr, a great-great-grandson of Lieutenant Wolfgang A. Rapps.


Councilor: Brendan Halloran O’Connell (2017), a great-great grandson of Lieutenant Patrick Lenihan.


Councilor: (vacant)

Past Commanders: Warren M. Wells, Jr., David L. Ladd, Frederick A. Stevens, Jr.

Attend the 2016 MOLLUS National Congress

The Commandery will pay travel, food and lodging expenses for Companions, and their significant others, to attend the 151st Congress of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, to be held in Tallahassee, Florida, in October. Exact days of the gathering, as well as a schedule of events, are forthcoming. Meanwhile, please contact Commander Whittemore with your provisional intention to attend.
MOLLUS 2015 Congress
Union League — Philadelphia

Commandery representatives and National committee members in the Union League Lincoln Room.

Center and right: MA MOLLUS Companions Bob Schecter and Marsden Watson.

Outgoing C-in-C Waldron Kintzing Post II (left) and incoming C-in-C Captain James Alan Simmons.

Right: MA MOLLUS Companion Brendan Halloran O’Connell.

MA MOLLUS Commander Dave Whittemore presenting the Commandery annual report.
Companions visited the Framingham History Center, a memorial to Framingham soldiers who served and died for Abolition and the Union.

Learning about Framingham’s role in the War effort from Center Director Annie Murphy (center) and docent Jennifer Toth.

A reënactor discussed the technology and technique, then loaded and fired.

Julia Ward Howe (Libby Frank) spoke. Her “Battle Hymn” was first publicly sung in Framingham.

Framingham native General George Gordon’s locally raised regiment was praised by senior Union Army officers as a model for the Army.


Massachusetts Commandery’s Ed Welch authenticated Gen. Gordon’s coat.

Gen. Gordon’s Saddle.
Commandery representatives from around the country at the 2014 Congress business meeting, in Framingham.

Longfellow’s Wayside Inn, site of the Congress 2014 welcome dinner that honored the late Lenahan O’Connell, former Mass MOLLUS Commander and MOLLUS Commander-in-Chief.

MA MOLLUS Companions at the Congress Friday Dinner

(Left to right) Companion Rufus Frost and Mrs. Frost, Companion Warren Wells; Companion Marston Watson and Mrs. Watson; Companion Mark Slayton; Companion Ed Welch and Mrs. Welch.

Companions Joseph, Brian, and Michael O’Connell, brothers of the late Mass MOLLUS Commander and MOLLUS Commander-in-Chief Lenahan O’Connell, who was honored at the Wayside Inn dinner.
At the banquet: William Martin, author of *The Lincoln Letter*, sharing his insights with Companions, family, and friends at the Sheraton Framingham Hotel and Conference Center.

**Commander Stevens and Companion Bob Schecter represented the Commandery at the Lincoln Birthday celebration 2015, in DC.**

Master of Ceremonies Peter Dixon, MOLLUS Council-in-Chief.

The U.S. Air Force Band

**Lincoln Day Celebration 2015, in Hingham, Massachusetts**

Co-sponsored by MASS MOLLUS

Associate Companion Schecter and Commander Stevens at the Hingham celebration.
Profiles of Our Officer Ancestors

In addition to profiles of officer ancestors of MA MOLLUS Companions, the book contains biographical sketches of prominent officers from Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire who served during the War, as well as Massachusetts citizens important in the Abolition movement, and industries that sustained the War effort.

Associate Companion Clarence A. DeGrave, 97, passed away at his home in Haverhill, Massachusetts in April.

Drafted into the Army in 1942, he was stationed with the 36th Texas Division in Florida. During WWII, he took part in battles in Anzio, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, and Southern France.

Captured by the Germans in Leon, France, he was held as a Prisoner of War in three German prison camps for 11 months, until liberated on April 29, 1945. He was a recipient of the WWII Victory Medal, EAME Campaign Ribbon with three Bronze Service Stars, and a Purple Heart.

The 1872 MOLLUS Banner, restored by the Commandery, found a permanent home at the National Heritage Museum, in Lexington, Massachusetts.

Annual MA MOLLUS ROTC Awards

Associate Companion Schecter presenting the MA MOLLUS Award for leadership achievement—a medal, a certificate, and $500—to a cadet in the ROTC program at the University of Massachusetts. Identical awards this year went to ROTC cadets at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Northeastern University.

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MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES
Massachusetts Commandery

February 2015 report to C-in-C for activities October 2014 to February 2015

The Massachusetts Commandery membership is currently at 43, 36 Hereditary, including 1 Dual and 2 National Life, plus 7 Associates. Our newest members are the Rev. David Hockensmith, Ronald Morneau and Eric Frydman.

Feedback from the National Congress was heart warming. We appreciate the many favorable statements. As for glitches, I believe we were our own severest critics and we regret those inconveniences made known to us.

We continue to co-sponsor Lincoln Day in Hingham. This year it was held on February 7th. I again presented a wreath at the statue of Abraham Lincoln and attend the ceremony at “Old Ship” church. The keynote speaker was James Conroy. His topic was “Lincoln’s Whitehouse: a Paradigm of Civic Engagement”. MOLLUS brochures were made available.

We continue to present outstanding ROTC cadets at MIT, University of Massachusetts and Northeastern University with a certificate, a medal, and a cash award of $500. Awardees will be made known to us in the next few weeks.

Our restored old silk banner is now safely on loan to the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library, at 33 Marrett Road, Lexington, MA 02421. The museum is also known as the National Heritage Museum, its older title.

At a meeting of our Board of Officers on January 29th, it was proposed to change our By-Laws to add a Junior Vice-Commander. The discussion focused on the relatively small number of our members who live in an area close enough to be actively involved. The proposal was defeated. A proposal to invite women to all formal Board meetings was approved. A proposal that we find a way to support veterans in need was also approved.

Our Treasurer’s report indicated that after all the Congress and related expenses, we should increase our dues. This will be the first increase in many years. It was voted to increase from $25 per year to $30, starting this year, with a further increase next year, to produce adequate income for expected annual expenses.

Our website, www.massmollus.org continues to thrive under the guidance of companion Mark Slayton.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick A. Stevens, Jr., Commander