2017 Michigan “Mini-Congress”

The Michigan Commandery’s first meeting of 2017 was held at the Colonel Thomas Stockton home, located at Stockton Center at Spring Grove. This meeting was special in that it was a mini-version of a MOLLUS Congress.

A brief meeting and tour of the Stockton House was held, then the Companions traveled to the Glenwood Cemetery to visit the grave sites of Colonel Stockton, Colonel McCreery, The Fentons, Buckingham and Algoe and several MOLLUS Companions buried there. Following the tours, the Companions gathered for an afternoon luncheon. An enjoyable time was had by all in attendance.

Thomas Stockton Bio:

Thomas Stockton and his wife, Maria, were among Flint’s prominent early residents. Maria, the daughter of Jacob Smith ~ considered to be Flint’s first white settler ~ led the formation of the city’s Ladies Library Association in 1851. An 1827 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Thomas Stockton (1805 - 1890) spent much of his military career as a topographical engineer in the Midwest. In 1834 he laid out the turnpike that connected Detroit and Saginaw. As a colonel he raised the First Michigan Infantry Regiment to fight in the Mexican War and Stockton's Independent Regiment (the Sixteenth Michigan) in the Civil War. Captured at Gaines Mill, Virginia, in June 1862, he was held at Libby Prison for two months. Stockton left the army in 1863 and settled permanently in Flint. (source: http://www.michmarkers.com/startup.asp?startpage=L2140.htm)

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Request for Material – Any Companions with interesting historical submissions, ancestor biographies or stories, events, pictures, etc. Please submit to The Missive Editor at: wyattusmagnus@gmail.com

Submit Your Officer Ancestor

For inclusion in upcoming issues of The Missive, submit information, pictures, and/or biographies on your Officer Ancestor(s) to the Editor at: wyattusmagnus@gmail.com

DOLLUS

Have a lady in your life that is interested in the Dames of the Loyal Legion of the United States? Contact Dame Jan Davis at: jandavis915@aol.com
The Michigan Commandery presented ROTC Awards at Michigan State University and Eastern Michigan University. ROTC Officer Fred Roberts presented at Eastern Michigan University, while PCinC and Registrar Keith Harrison presented to both the Army and Air Force ROTC at Michigan State.

PCinC Harrison bestowed the ROTC Award to Air Force ROTC Cadet Jessica Forraht, as well as to Army ROTC Cadet Steve Dinverno.

ROTC Officer Fred Roberts presented the ROTC Award to Eastern Michigan University Army ROTC Cadet Patrick Catton.

Above: PCinC Keith Harrison presents Army ROTC Cadet Steve Dinverno with the ROTC Award and a copy of Union Blue at Michigan State University.

"Mini-Congress" Cont’d

Left (L-to-R): ROTC Officer Fred Roberts, Council Don Shaw, Companion Skip Bryant, PCinC Keith Harrison, Commander Paul Davis, and Recorder/Treasurer David Wallace at the Stockton House.

Roster Update

If your contact information has changed, please send in your updates to: pdmarcomm@aol.com and dwallace@suvcwmi.org
ROTC Officer Roberts also had the opportunity to meet with Medal of Honor winner Lieutenant Colonel Charles Kettles, U.S. Army-Retired, and a Ypsilanti native. Lieutenant Colonel Kettles was awarded the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty during a rescue mission in the Vietnam War. Lieutenant Colonel Kettles was a UH-1 helicopter pilot, and a Major at the time of the event. Lieutenant Colonel Kettles is highly decorated with awards that include the Distinguished Service Cross, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, and others. To review Lieutenant Colonel Kettles’ Medal of Honor highly detailed page with pictures and history, please visit the following webpage link: https://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/kettles/

The University of Michigan had three recipients receiving the ROTC Award, they are as follows:

Army: Cadet Emily Butte  
Navy: Midshipman Timothy Vohs  
Air Force: Cadet Cody Nagel

Right: Cadet Patrick Catton receiving the ROTC Award and a copy of Union Blue from ROTC Officer Fred Roberts.

Above: Medal of Honor winner, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Kettles with ROTC Officer Fred Roberts at Eastern Michigan University.
“Mini-Congress” Cont’d

Above Left: Companion Don Shaw placing a flag at the grave of a MOLLUS Companion.

Above Right (L-to-R): Recorder/Treasurer David Wallace, Companion Skip Bryant, ROTC Officer Fred Roberts, PCinC Keith Harrison, Council Don Shaw, and Commander Paul Davis.

Above Left: Colonel Thomas Stockton

Above Right: The Colonel Thomas Stockton House
Michigan Commandery Is Chartered: 1885

In mid winter of 1885, at the suggestion of Colonel Henry M. Duffield, a meeting was called for the members of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, residing at that time in Detroit for the purpose of organizing of a Commandery for the State of Michigan.

At that meeting only five members attended and after inquiry it was determined that there were only seven members who were residents in the state of Michigan. As thirteen was the minimum number required for being granted a charter, it was necessary to secure the requisite number of members before anything further could be done.

With little effort that number was readily achieved and application was made for a Charter. General Winfield Scott Hancock, then Acting Commander in Chief, promptly gave his approval. On February 4, 1885 the charter was issued to First Lieutenant Henry M. Duffield, Brevet Major General Luther S. Trowbridge, Brevet Brigadier General John Gibbon Parkhurst, Brevet Major General Russell A. Alger, Surgeon Sidney L. Fuller, Lieutenant Fordyce H. Rogers, Brevet Brigadier General John Pulford, Brevet Major Levi T. Griffin, Brevet Major James Biddle, Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Robert Burns, and Lieutenant Deming Jarves. Note: The source document lists the eleven Companions mentioned. The names of the remaining two are not known at this time.

On April 13, 1885, in Detroit, the organization of the Michigan Commandery was finalized. Henry Duffield was elected its first Commander. He was twice re-elected. When Duffield stepped down he made the following statement to the Commander and the newly elected Commander Russell Alger.

“With the close of this meeting I transfer the command of the Michigan Commandery to that knightly Michigan soldier and chivalric gentleman General Russell A. Alger on whose bright plume of fame not a spot of the dark. His unanimous election this evening betokens a continuance of the wonderful harmony that has prevailed amongst us from the first. With him to lead us, we are sure to increase in numbers and as an Order in the estimation of our fellow citizens, I say then with an overflowing heart, long life and prosperity to the Michigan Commandery of the Loyal Legion and beg the company to rise and join me in three hearty cheers for the Commander elect.”

Above (L-to-R): Henry Duffield (1421), Russell Alger (3572), John Parkhurst (3251)
Lincoln Birthday Celebration and Congress

Above L-R: Dames Nat. Recorder Cathy Harris, NJVP Jan Davis, NP Ellen Higgins, and Lynne Bury PNP at the Lincoln Birthday Celebration on 12 February 2017 in Washington D.C.

Above: Commander Paul Davis with CinC Simmons and other Past CinCs and Companions at the Lincoln Monument in Washington D.C.

Right: National Junior Vice President Jan Davis placing a wreath on behalf of the Dames of the Loyal Legion of the United States at the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in Springfield this past April.

Lincoln Tomb Ceremony
Corporal Jacob Anthony Aurand
Co. H, 9th Michigan Cavalry

Jacob was born Nov. 8, 1843 in Wayne County, New York. He enlisted in the 9th Michigan Cavalry December 15, 1862 serving in Co. “H” under Capt. Howard M. Rice.

The Regiment organized at Coldwater, Michigan from Jan. to May 1863. Then left the state for Covington, Kentucky in May and was assigned to the Army of Ohio.

From June 27, to July they were in pursuit and capture of Gen. John Hunt Morgan CSA in Ohio.

The 9th was with Gen. Burnside when he crossed the Cumberland Mountains and took Knoxville, Tenn. Sept. 3, 1863. Followed by the East Tenn. Campaign unequaled for hardships during the war because of the severity of weather and need for clothing and rations. The 9th was on constant duty and in frequent contact with Gen. Longstreet’s cavalry. Lack of forage dismounted most of the companies by spring.

In May of 1864 the regiment returned to Nicholasville, Kentucky to be remounted and equipped. The 9th then joined Gen. Sherman in the Atlanta campaign as part of Gen. Kilpatrick’s Cavalry force and the “March to the Sea.” It was the first regiment to make contact with the federal fleet.

On Jan. 27, 1865 they began the Carolinas campaign. On March 10, 1865 at the Battle of Monroe’s Crossroads or Solemn Grove N.C. Jacob was taken prisoner and sent to Richmond, Virginia, paroled and discharged at Camp Chase, Ohio June 12, 1865.

Jacob married Elizabeth Freeman and had four children Laura, Mary, Hattie, and Cornelius they lived at Marathon, Lapeer Co. Michigan.

Jacob A. Aurand died of consumption Dec. 21, 1875 in Falmouth, Pendleton County, Kentucky and is buried in the Blackburn Cemetery.
Chartered Cont’d

Above (L-to-R): Luther Trowbridge (3513), John Pulford (3419), James Biddle (3420)

Above (L-to-R): Robert Burns (2816), Fordyce Rogers (3421), Levi Griffin (3422)

Officers of the Michigan Commandery
Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

Commander Paul Davis
Senior Vice Commander David Smith
Junior Vice Commander Adam Gaines
Recorder/Treasurer David Wallace
Chancellor Charles DuCharme
Chaplain Jon Reed
Commandery Council Alan Russ
Commandery Council Don Shaw
Commandery Council Dale Aurand
Registrar Keith Harrison, Past Commander-in-Chief
Historian Adam Gaines
ROTC Officer Fred Roberts
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