



Missouri Commandery Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States End-of-Year Comments from Your Commander

Missouri suffered the loss of Past C-in-C Douglas Reed Niermeier in July. I was asked by his widow, Irene, to talk during his funeral about his life and interest hereditary societies. This was published in the *Gen. Thomas C. Fletcher Camp #47 Newsletter* (SUVCW).¹ Douglas had just resumed getting involved in various hereditary organizations (MOLLUS, SR, SCW, Cincinnati) before his untimely death.

We added new hereditary companions.

- Daniel Sauerwein, of Bismarck, North Dakota, whose 5x-great-uncle was Capt. Peter Cover Spencer, Co. B, 74th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment.
- Gregory LaVal “Aussie” Thayer of St. Louis, whose 2x-great-grandfather was 2nd Lt., 21st Regiment, Missouri Infantry (Federal).
- Timothy “Tim” Haskell Baker of Van Buren, Arkansas, whose 3x-great-uncle was 1st Lt., Co. E, 2nd Arkansas Infantry. [Paperwork will be reviewed by the Registrar-in-Chief in early January.]

We reinstated associate companion Fulvio Poli.

We accepted the transfer of Daniel Brian McLaughlin from the California Commandery. We transferred Douglas James Richardson to the Ohio Commandery.

However, we lost companions this year. Partly this is due to those people that either Past C-in-C Niermeier or our Commandery carried for lack of payment. All efforts were made to retain the companions.

I contacted the Missouri State Historical Society to see if they would be willing to scan the Missouri Commandery’s *Circulars* in a way that would make them searchable. This would aid our spreadsheet effort identify all companions and to locate their graves. Randal Burd has created a [google sheet](#) for us to commonly updating the spreadsheet. Contact him (raburdjr@gmail.com) if you’d like access. If we know of any original MOLLUS soldiers or sailors who are lacking gravestone, we should make an effort to contact the Veterans Administration and work towards installing a gravestone.

¹ https://www.suvcwmo.org/uploads/3/0/9/6/30960503/fletcher_newsletter_july_2023_.pdf (see pages 9-10).

I have plans to visit the Missouri State Historical Society to review some of the MOLLUS items in their collection.² Also, they have a collection three boxes of Missouri Commandery items that would be good to explore.³ Others are welcome to join me.

Our annual meeting took place in Springfield, Missouri, on June 2. This was the night before the SUVCW Department of Missouri's Department Encampment. I gave the program "From Mexican War to the 20th Maine: The Life of Capt. Elisha Besse, Jr." This was about his MOLLUS qualifying relative, who served in the 1st U. S. Regiment during the Mexican War and of the 20th Maine Infantry during the Civil War. This was published in the *Gen. Thomas C. Fletcher Camp #47 Newsletter* (SUVCW) and has been submitted to the Descendants of Mexican War Veterans for publication.⁴

I was pleased to be at the national congress in Gettysburg, where both my qualifying MOLLUS officer, (then) 1st Lieutenant Elisha Besse, Jr., served there with the 20th Maine Infantry as well as my ancestor Pvt. Daniel Apt, Jr., of the 6th Maine Infantry.

Companion Walt Busch, under the auspices of the U. S. Grant Camp #68 (SUVCW), helped organize an event to recognize the 56th USCT at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis. It was covered by local papers and television. I laid a wreath for MOLLUS. The event was covered in the DOLLUS section of the last *Loyal Legion Journal*. Speaking of Walt, he has created a website of us [MO MOLLUS - Missouri Department - Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Home Page \(suvcwmo.org\)](http://www.suvcwmo.org). Feel free to contact him (webusch@hotmail.com) if you have any changes or additions.

Your officers SVC Daniel Jackson, JVC Randal Burd, Jr., Secretary Gary Scheel, and Treasurer Dale Crandell continue to do a fine job in their positions.

Finally, a few announcements:

- Let me know if you plan on attending the Lincoln Day ceremony in Springfield, Illinois, this April.
- Our next meeting will be in June in Boonville, Missouri. **We will have elections in June.** If you are interested in an office, let me know.
- I have created 22" sashes with "Loyal Legion" on them for a wreath you might have, which you can use in the name of our Order at any wreath laying events. Let me know if you can use one.
- Don't forget that if you are a *hereditary* member, your wife can join [DOLLUS](#) without any hereditary requirement.
- This year, consider donating a little something to the [Loyal Legion Memorial Fund](#).

Sumner G. Hunnewell
Commander, Missouri Commandery, MOLLUS

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<https://explore.searchmobius.org/search/?searchtype=X&SORT=DX&sortdropdown=r&searcharg=%22loyal+legion%22&searchscope=2>

³ <https://mohistory.org/collections/item/A1043>

⁴ https://www.suvcwmo.org/uploads/3/0/9/6/30960503/fletcher_newsletter_june_2023_.pdf (see pages 4-8).